

**WARREN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL  
CULTURAL & HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD**  
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue  
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON  
APRIL 16, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Mark Young, Richard Gardner, Karin White, Jane Primerano, Randy Piazza Sr

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland, Commissioner Lori Ciesla, Art Charlton

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

**MINUTES**

The March 19, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Young stated the name of the Belvidere group he met with regarding the bicentennial book was not correct and asked for it to be corrected to "Belvidere Historical Preservation Commission." Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Fineran, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Young were in favor. Ms. Primerano, Ms. White, and Mr. Piazza abstained since they were not at the last meeting. Motion carried; minutes approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

none

**OLD BUSINESS**

**BICENTENNIAL BOOK:**

Mr. Young has been speaking with Belvidere and White Township. White Township has done a book in the past that Ms. Rosseland already has a copy of. They also shared the name of Shelly Zellers, but she doesn't know what else she can do to help with the book. Belvidere has no one to put the info and pictures together.

Ms. Rosseland suggested she could post the information on the website instead of having a book published. Commissioner Ciesla suggested the county could ask the public for pictures. Ms. Primerano will talk to Hope Twp. to ask for pictures. Mr. Piazza asked for more details on types of

pictures – then & now or just historical... Ms. Rosseland is looking for depictions of the origins of the towns. Mr. Gardner said Ingersoll-Rand in Phillipsburg should really be included. Mr. Piazza will try to talk to Gino at Gino's Market as he may have some old photos. Ms. White will pursue Blairstown and Hardwick. Ms. Primerano shared how Califon displayed numbered photos in their municipal building, so if a resident had information on a photo, they could write it down.

Ms. Rapisardi summed it up as an online book available to all. A physical book will be put on hold, unless there becomes a need for it. Mr. Gardner still thinks we should have an actual book. Mr. Piazza suggested playing a slideshow at the Farmers' Fair. Commissioner Ciesla said it could be shown at the Bicentennial Gala too.

Mr. Charlton stated the county has a pavilion at the fair. BCHAB should set up a table, wall space, or booth about the bicentennial. A television would be needed to have a slide show playing.

Ms. Primerano made a motion to say we are not doing a physical book at this time; however, we will move forward with putting content on the website from the municipalities as we receive it. A book will be forthcoming (if needed), along with a slideshow. Mr. Fineran seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

#### **WEBSITE:**

Ms. Rosseland needs to add the bicentennial summer concert to the website. The Shippen Manor lawn series concerts will be added once the paperwork from the performers has been received.

#### **HISTORIC MARKERS:**

Ms. Rosseland gave Harmony Twp and Washington the deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gardner spoke with Franklin Twp. He said Franklin has the Edison Cement Plant and the Asbury Mill. Some historic sites are on private property. Mr. Tierney said permission from the landowner is required to install a sign on private property. A town can put it in a municipal right of way. They would need county permission to put it in a county right of way. State DOT permission is required to put it in a state highway right of way. Ms. Rosseland said there is information about placement permission on the website with the application. Mr. Gardner is also going to speak with the mayor of Pohatcong.

Mr. Fineran asked if replacing existing signs that are in poor condition is permissible for the historic marker grant, specifically at Rutherford Hall. That is acceptable, and so is getting more than one sign. The match is up to \$500.

Ms. Primerano asked Commissioner Ciesla if there will be a push from the state for local history to be taught in the schools because of the state's semiquincentennial. Ms. Rosseland said a segment of History Happens Here is being filmed at Shippen Manor. It is a state social studies/history initiative for grades 5-12.

#### **BICENTENNIAL GALA (11/20/24 at David's Country Inn):**

The deposit has been paid to David's Country Inn. Commissioner Ciesla wants to send out a "save the date" announcement. She also suggested giving out awards during the gala to bolster attendance. She spoke with Commissioner Director Kern and he suggested "Oldest Business in Warren County." From last month's meeting, the gala subcommittee is made up of Commissioner Ciesla, Ms. Rapisardi, and Mr. Fineran. Tickets should be around \$50 and sold on Eventbrite. We can still ask for sponsors. Ms. Rapisardi said some of the local rotary clubs want to be involved.

Mr. Young has artwork titled "Grandma's Prayer" that was donated by Jeff Echevarria when there was going to be a silent auction at the Roaring Twenties Gala last fall which was cancelled. He would like to find a better storage space until the Bicentennial Gala this November. It was suggested to put it in the glass cabinet on an easel in the Wayne Dumont Jr. Admin. Bldg. with a sign stating it will be part of the silent auction.

**BICENTENNIAL SUMMER CONCERT (7/13/24, 4pm-8pm at Bread Lock Park):**

There will be two bands. Kate & Paul will play from 4pm-5pm, then an hour of music playing during the set switch, and then the Brian Dean Moore Band will play from 6pm-8pm. Ms. Rosseland will be sending out the contracts to them. BCHAB will have a table at the event with bicentennial information. Ms. Rapisardi will not be available, but Mr. Young and Ms. Primerano will be. The Angry Chourico food truck will be there. Humpty Jr.'s food & ice cream truck will also be there with both kid-friendly food and ice cream. A face painter is scheduled. The bubbles entertainment quotes were higher than expected (cheapest was \$500). Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve a budget of \$1,000 for children's entertainment. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried. Ms. Barnes will reach out to Dragonfly Productions to inquire on any other entertainment ideas or bundling. Ms. Rapisardi made a motion to provide free ice cream to kids under age 14 during the concert, seconded by Mr. Young. All in favor; motion carried.

**COMMUNITY DAY (6/28/25):**

Community Day will be at Warren County Community College (WCCC) on Saturday, 6/28/25, with a rain date of Sunday, 6/29/25. A meeting with Jam Fam Productions at WCCC still needs to be scheduled.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OUTREACH EVENTS:**

Commissioner Ciesla said there is a meeting (virtual and in-person) scheduled with the BCHAB members, Economic Development, and all county business groups and the public in the Commissioners Meeting Room on 4/24/24 at 7pm. It is an open session to discuss what kinds of things can be done for the bicentennial. IT is working on the virtual meeting link.

**PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):**

Commissioner Ciesla said May 11 was the date that the newly formed Warren County had their first meeting in 1825. In 2025, May 11 falls on a Sunday, but that is Mother's Day. The parade could possibly be held on Saturday, May 10 with a rain date of the following Saturday. It would start at Belvidere High School and end at the courthouse. The Commissioners will unveil a plaque or something at the courthouse. Assistance will be needed from the Town of Belvidere, the Belvidere Police Dept., and Belvidere High School.

**OTHER OUTREACH EVENTS:**

Ms. Rosseland reminded the board about Alpha's Fall Festival event on October 12.

Mr. Young said Victorian Day in Belvidere is September 7.

Mr. Gardner said Community Day in Greenwich Twp. is on September 21 and is always a huge event.

Ms. Rosseland said she can do an email blast to the municipalities to find out what events are on their calendars.

Phillipsburg has a farmers market on Sundays at Shappell Park. Blairstown, Washington Borough, and Hackettstown also have farmers markets.

The Warren County Balloon Festival is June 1 & 2 at WCCC and would be a good event to promote the bicentennial and the bicentennial summer concert. Mr. Young could help man a BCHAB table on Saturday, but not Sunday. Commissioner Ciesla will also be around.

### **COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:**

Shippen Manor's opening day celebrating its 270<sup>th</sup> anniversary is Sunday, May 5. Ms. Rosseland asked if any BCHAB members will be manning a table. Mr. Fineran will be there for the Morris Canal Committee, so he can cover BCHAB too.

The museum schedule is on the warren200.com site.

The Portland washing machine from 1880 was gifted to the Westfield (NJ) Historical Society.

Ms. Rosseland sent out notification to historical groups that applications for Round 2 for the CHPP grants are due in June. There is \$10,123 available. This is the last year there will be a Round 2.

Applications for Historical Markers are due June 7.

Ms. Rosseland said Phillipsburg could apply for a CHPP grant for kiosks and interpretive panels next year. Hope is getting one this year for an interpretive panel with a brochure holder for their history tour.

### **COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:**

The packets for the Local Arts Programming (LAP) Grant went out the first week of April. There is still money available for mini-grants and Teen Arts mini-grants.

Ms. Rosseland and Mr. Shelton are going to Hunterdon County's Teen Arts Festival on April 17 to see about bringing a modified, smaller version back to Warren County in 2025. It would be at WCCC and would then be built up with each coming year.

The Warren County Senior Citizen Art Show is Friday, 5/17, at the Wayne Dumont Jr. Admin. Bldg. The seniors will drop off their art work next week. Adjudication will be the week of the art show. There are three Warren County art teachers who will be adjudicators. The artwork will remain at the admin. building until the end of June.

Ms. Rosseland has received positive feedback regarding the assisted care performers this year. The performers are paid with funds from the arts grant.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** (open)

Mr. Young shared information on a free concert of the West Point Glee Club at Belvidere High School on Saturday, 4/27, at 2pm. Ms. Primerano shared news of "Kenny and Gillis" performing at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Hope that same day at 7pm.

Mr. Fineran asked Mr. Charlton about the next meeting of the Delaware Sojourn. The subcommittee meets next Thursday and the next general meeting is Tuesday, 5/14 at 10am. Mr. Young asked that Belvidere be considered as a stopping point.

Ms. Rosseland will be at the courthouse on 4/25 for Take Your Child to Work Day. She will have bicentennial things on hand for the adults.

Mr. Young said the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Belvidere went on a walking tour in town earlier today and had lunch at the Community Center in Belvidere. They had their own lunches, but the Community Center provided dessert. After they ate, they had an art project where the students drew the most interesting, favorite thing they saw on the walking tour.

Ms. Barnes reminded the board members that the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch is this Saturday, 4/27.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held May 21, 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes  
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.