

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
MAY 21, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Mark Young, Karin White, Jane Primerano

Members Absent: Richard Gardner, Randy Piazza Sr.

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

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The April 16, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Young stated he noted the wrong date for Belvidere's Victorian Day during the April meeting. It should be September 7, not September 14. Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Mr. Young seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried; minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL BOOK:

Ms. Rosseland has not received anything from any of the towns. She really needs the pictures to be sent in a jpeg or a tiff format. Washington BID has a lot of pictures of Washington Borough.

WEBSITE:

Ms. Rosseland added the bicentennial events to the website with the information she currently has. The Shippen Manor lawn concert series will be added once the paperwork from all of the performers has been received.

HISTORIC MARKERS:

Ms. Rosseland reported there is only one new application right now (Hardwick Twp.), but the deadline is early June. The Harmony Twp. marker looks great. Washington Borough should have theirs installed by June 1. Mr. Fineran said Allamuchy might be applying for a marker. The Friends of Rutherford Hall disbanded and they may end up donating money for signs.

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

The original headlining band did not want to adhere to the county's payment process, so a new headlining band was hired – Stereo Junkies. Kate & Paul will open from 4pm-5pm, then an hour of music playing during the set switch, and then Stereo Junkies will play from 6pm-8pm. Ms. Rosseland is working on booking a sound engineer. BCHAB will have a table at the event with bicentennial information. The Angry Chourico food truck e-mailed saying they now have a scheduling conflict. Food trucks will now be Tia B's Street Tacos and Humpty Jr.'s. Kids' entertainment from 4:30-6:30 will include Go with YoYo and face painting by Zella Bella's Gaggle of Giggles. Ms. Primerano is not going to be able to attend. Historic groups will be invited to set up tables. Mr. Charlton suggested we start advertising next week. Suggestions were WRNJ, Facebook, Tap into Phillipsburg & North Hunterdon, banners on the wagon at Bread Lock Park, and hang fliers in libraries, post offices, churches, Tranquility Farms, Hot Dog Johnny's, schools, etc. Ms. Rapisardi offered to create the flier. It is bring your own chair or blanket. There is no rain date. If the forecast calls for rain, we can get a tent.

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

Commissioner Ciesla reported the subcommittee just met. Tickets will be \$55 each. Award categories are still being discussed. Time will probably be 6pm-9pm with a cocktail hour. They decided on folksy entertainment, like banjos or fiddles, from that time period will play during the cocktail hour. A string quartet will play during dinner. Dance instructors will teach guests some of the dances from that time. The theme/era will be American Renaissance. There will be a silent auction. A "save the date" announcement needs to be sent out. We can still ask for sponsors.

COMMUNITY DAY (6/28/25):

Commissioner Ciesla reported she met with Dr. Austin and Samir Elbassiouny from Warren County Community College (WCCC) and JamFam Productions at WCCC. They discussed having balloons and the layout with two stages. It is still undecided if there will be a beer tent and/or wine garden. Rides and music will be free. They would like to have a drone show. The rain date will be Sunday, 6/29/25. Off-site parking was discussed. Suggestions included Warren County Vo-Tech, the former Shop Rite, the Franklin Municipal Bldg, etc.

PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):

Mr. Charlton spoke with Dennis Riley, President of Belvidere's Good Will Fire Co. #1, about the parade. It will probably start at the high school, go down to the park and courthouse, and return to the high school. Invitations should be sent to all the high school marching bands, fire departments, all county businesses and groups, anyone who wants to have a float in the parade. Saturday, May 10 or around there is being considered since May 11 was the date that the newly formed Warren County had their first meeting in 1825. Ms. Rapisardi and Mr. Young volunteered to be on the parade committee.

NEW BUSINESS

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Mr. Fineran shared information on the Delaware River Sojourn. The group of probably 100 people will be camping in Worthington State Forest. On Monday night 6/17, they are going to have a program for the sojourners with all local information. Set-up is at 6pm and start time is 7pm. He thinks the BCHAB should have a banner, if not a table set up. Old Mine Road is closed for paving right now (from Millbrook to Worthington).

Mr. Young shared that Tracey Williamson with the Belvidere Garden Club has reached out to him about sponsoring a Belvidere garden tour on June 14, 2025. If it is not county-wide, the BCHAB will

not sponsor it. There was discussion about a county-wide garden tour like the History Trail, stops around the county all in one day. There is a Warren County Garden Club. They also suggested including Diana Dove who does environmental programs and is the founder of the Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden.

Mr. Young said his contact with the West Point Glee Club mentioned there is little chance to book them for next year, as their calendar fills up so quickly. Commissioner Ciesla would like to have them perform for a bicentennial event in whichever school in the county has the largest auditorium. Commissioner Ciesla will check on dates and auditorium availability.

The virtual and in-person meeting on April 24 with the BCHAB members, RevolutionNJ, Economic Development, and all county business groups and the public was well attended. Commissioner Ciesla said they are going to sign a resolution for Warren County to join RevolutionNJ and join in their festivities commemorating America's 250th anniversary.

Warren County supplied the grains for soldiers, so that could be highlighted. There could be a county-wide barn tour, painted horses or mules placed around the county, "tavern talks." Troops marched from Beattystown to Valley Forge. The website RevolutionaryWarNewJersey.com lists Revolutionary War sites in Warren County (and all the counties in NJ). There are cemeteries noted that have Rev. War soldiers buried in them.

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Shippen Manor's opening day celebrating its 270th anniversary was Sunday, May 5. The tables were cancelled because it rained, but there were still about 37 people who attended. The first Shippen Talks of the year topic will be "Warren county, where it all began" on June 2.

The technical workshop for Round 2 of the CHPP grants is May 22 and the applications are due June 14. There is \$10,123 available. This is the last year there will be a Round 2.

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

The performances at the assisted-care facilities are going well with positive feedback received.

The summer lawn concert series is still in process as we wait for all the proper paperwork from the bands.

About ¾ of the Local Arts Programming (LAP) Grant funds have been expended.

Teen Arts for 2025 is in discussion. It might be too much to bring it back next year.

The Senior Citizen Art Show was last Friday, May 17. There were fourteen artists, twice as many as last year! The five first-place winning entries will be entered in the New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

none

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held June 18, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fineran. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.