

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:01PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Mark Young, Richard Gardner (left at 6:25pm), Karin White, and Jane Primerano

Members Absent: Randy Piazza Sr.

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland, Commissioner Lori Ciesla, and Erin Burnett (Public Information Dept)

Staff Absent: Art Charlton

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The June 18, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes as is. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Ms. White abstained from voting as she was not present at that meeting. All others voted in favor and minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL BOOK:

The book is paused while Art Charlton is out of the office.

WEBSITE:

The website has been updated as needed.

HISTORIC MARKERS:

Washington BID's sign was installed on the corner of Myrtle Ave & Route 31. Hardwick Twp. is working on their sign.

Ms. Rapisardi asked Ms. Burnett to introduce herself. Ms. Burnett works in the Warren County Public Information Dept. with Art Charlton and Holly Luberto.

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

Mr. Young represented BCHAB, along with Mr. Fineran, at the BCHAB table and reported the concert was good. Attendance was on the smaller side and it was a hot day. Kate & Paul played for the first hour. There was some rain about half way through the Stereo Junkies set. There were six tables in addition to the three county tables (BCHAB, Environmental Education Programming, and Explore Warren) – Warren County Parks Foundation, Canal Society of NJ, Greenwich Twp Historical Society, Mecsey-Bishop American Legion Post 456 (Stewartville), Musconetcong Watershed Authority, and Propagate Studio. It was good exposure for Bread Lock Park and the music was good. There was a comment that there should have been a welcome and the bands should have been introduced, among other things. Everyone loved Stereo Junkies. They played fun, well-known songs. The Schisler canal paintings looked nice hung in the barn by the Parks Foundation. Humpty Jr's ice cream truck was there and kids under 14 got a free cup of ice cream. Bridget with Tia B's Street Tacos said she was glad she came and it is a great setting. There weren't many kids present, but for the ones that were there, Go with Yoyo was very interactive with them, and Zella Bella's Gaggle of Giggles provided free face painting. Two main improvements for any future events would be stronger advertising and to have a speaker. Another suggestion was to have a big tent. Since everyone was sitting back off the stage anyway to be in the shade, the tent could be set back and would offer cover if it rained again. The NJ Youth Corps was very helpful preparing for the concert and during the concert.

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

The gala subcommittee is Commissioner Ciesla, Ms. Rapisardi, and Mr. Fineran. Advertising needs to start now. Ms. Rapisardi will work on the flier. Once the flier is done, the ticket sales can begin through Event Brite at \$55 each. The theme will be American Renaissance. Award categories still need to be decided on and will be discussed further in a subcommittee meeting. Ms. Rapisardi booked classic ballroom dance instructors. Ms. Rosseland has a banjo player & fiddler on standby. The details need to be determined to write up a contract. To have a decent dance floor, the max number of people would be 150-170.

PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):

Ms. Rapisardi and Mr. Charlton met with the mayor of Belvidere, Dennis Riley (Warren County Public Safety Director & President of Belvidere's Good Will Fire Co. #1), and other Belvidere personnel about the parade. There is still no firm date set. A day in April or 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. The exact route also needs to be determined. It will include the courthouse and starting and ending at the high school. Invites need to be sent out. All the towns in the county should be contacted, along with schools, American Legions & VFW's, color guards, fire departments, etc. Advertising needs to be planned/started.

COMMUNITY DAY (6/28/25, rain date 6/29/25, at WCCC):

There are no real updates. Mr. Tierney had asked Mr. Charlton to get a revised estimate and contract from Jam Fam. Commissioner Ciesla needs to follow up with Dr. Austin (WCCC President) to see if he was able to secure a drone show, which would start at 9pm. There will be two stages. Ms. Rosseland has two bands that are interested in performing – Toga Party Band and Water Street Band. Ms. Rapisardi made a motion to pursue more conversations with these bands. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor. Ms. Rosseland will get a quote for a two hour set. The times for the whole day will be 12pm-9pm. The main stage times will be 4pm-6pm for the main stage opener and 7pm-9pm for the headliner. Commissioner Ciesla will check with a Yacht Rock band. Vendors will be welcomed and will need to bring their own tents. We will have big tents set up for the food area and the band area. The second stage could be something other than bands, such as local dance groups or a magic show. There will be smaller rides and bouncy houses, 8-10 food trucks, and hot air balloons with tethered rides.

Ms. Burnett suggested and volunteered to help with a tie-dying station as an activity where people can buy bicentennial t-shirts and tie-dye them red, white, and blue (or all colors).

There was also discussion on holding a square dancing or line-dancing event, separate from Community Day, at an existing venue, possibly in the fall of 2025. The discussion was tabled until next month when Mr. Charlton is present.

NEW BUSINESS

BCHAB ACCESSIBILITY / ADA POLICY:

A proposed draft of the policy was distributed at the June meeting and emailed ahead of this meeting for the Board to review. Mr. Tierney asked if there were any comments, questions, or changes requested. There was discussion about the requirements. Ms. Rosseland stated that more than just accommodations for mobility disabilities are needed to comply, such as providing sign language interpreters. We have to show that reasonable accommodations are being made. Funding is an issue.

Mr. Gardner left the meeting at 6:25pm.

Mr. Fineran made a motion to recommend to the County Commissioners that the policy be adopted. Ms. Primerano seconded the motion. All remaining BCHAB members voted in favor.

OUTREACH EVENTS:

National Night Out (NNO) is Tuesday, August 6. Mr. Young will be at Belvidere's NNO with the Community Center and can have BCHAB info on that table too. Ms. Rosseland will attend Washington Twp's NNO and also the fall event in Alpha. Commissioner Ciesla will ask Mr. Piazza to cover Phillipsburg's. Handouts will be needed for the tables. The eagle was a popular coloring page last year. It was suggested to get something more than the wooden nickels and stickers, such as chip clips or stress balls.

Mr. Young suggested, for events where we have people helping park cars, to hand the driver a flier or postcard with a list of upcoming events on it.

Ms. Rapisardi will send out an email for NNO to see who is going to cover which town's event. Other upcoming events include, Halloween parades, Pork Roll Palooza, and the Hackettstown, Washington BID and Blairstown farmers' markets.

The Warren County Farmers' Fair is coming up (7/27-8/3). Ms. Burnett said to give her gala info and rack cards and she will have them at the Explore Warren display.

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

The Shippen lawn concerts are posted, Sundays through September 1 from 6pm-8pm. The senior citizen art show entries are on display in the Admin. Bldg. main level hallway until the end of August. Assisted care performances are going well. There are still funds available for arts mini-grants and teachers' mini-grants.

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Round 2 for the CHPP grant with three applicants [Hackettstown Historical Society (requesting \$661.32), Hope Historic Preservation Commission (requesting \$1,964.97), and Hope Historical Society (requesting \$1,805.00)] is going to the County Commissioners next month for approval. There is remaining money that Ms. Rosseland will use to schedule an in-person workshop for re-grantees with a conservator who will show them how to clean their artifacts, and the rest will be distributed amongst the re-grantees.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

Mr. Tierney informed the Board that two members' terms expire in September – Ms. Primerano and Mr. Piazza Sr. - if they are still interested in serving. Ms. Primerano said she would like to continue.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held August 20, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Primerano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. White. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.