

**Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES**

**Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday April 26, 2012
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ**

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, Frank Curcio, Lora W. Jones, John Kuhl, James Davidson, Janet M Hunt, Elizabeth M. Rice, Beverly N. Drake

Absent: Christopher Pickell

Staff Present: Kevin Richardson, Rick Steffey

O.P.M.A.

At 9:30 a.m. Chairman Stevens declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. APPROVAL OF March 29, 2012 MINUTES

Moved by Kuhl to approve, 2nd Jones, Motion Carried.

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

Staff reported that the NJSCA long term plan was in progress, although not due until the end of 2012. Staff recommended the Commission consider combining the history and arts long term plans, but Chairperson Stevens felt the plans should remain as individual plans because the disciplines were so different. Chairman Stevens recommended that we prepare the plans the way we have always done in the past specific to each discipline. Staff also updated the Commission on the ADA plan status and process. Revisions were made pursuant to NJSCA comments and resubmitted on 04/25. We would expect to hear back with an approval or additional revisions within the next 60 days. The revised FY2011 NJSCA Final Report will be re-submitted to the State ASAP; once approved by the NJSCA the final payment is received the remaining 15% funds will be disbursed to our re-grantees. There was a general discussion about the Survey Monkey technology, process and cost without any specific decision or recommendation from the Commission. There was also a general discussion about the survey process and using the County website for the survey tool. Chairman Stevens reiterated the importance of rolling out whatever survey process the Commission decides to use quickly.

NJHC (New Jersey Historical Commission)

There was a general discussion about the public outreach success of the Historical Society and Museum Society on past projects and events; and a discussion about outreach expenses for the upcoming Expo. Chairman Stevens asked staff to report on the amount of funds available for use on the history long term plan. Staff indicated there was about \$3K left that could be encumbered for the survey project. Staff updated the Commission on the Freeholders reducing the amount available for the Special projects grants, and asked for the Commissions concurrence on staff strategy in reducing the amounts available for each of the recipients. The Commission discussed and approved the staff recommendation to reduce each award by the same amount (\$205.88). Commissioner Drake asked for a clarification on the source and change of the Special projects funds. Chairman Stevens provided the background on how the funds allocation has changed. Commissioner Jones opened a discussion on whether or not the Commission should consider awarding larger grants to fewer organizations through a more competitive process rather than spreading smaller amounts across a broader range of recipients. The Commission will take up this discussion again at a later date.

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve the 205.88 award reduction across all recipients for 2012 Special Projects Grants. Commissioner Kuhl seconded the Motion; Motion carried.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture: Commissioner Jones reported that Opera Works performed at the Alexandria Township School and was well received, especially by the school's Janitor. The performance was 'slapstick' Opera and had 169 in attendance. The next Kids Kulture performance is scheduled for May 31 at the Holland School with 265 potential attendees. The performance will be "From Bach to Rock"

2012 Arts Exhibition:

Commissioners Hunt & Jones confirmed that the Prallsville Mill will be the site of this year's exhibit; art will be received on September 4, and the opening reception may be held on Friday, the 7th - all to be finalized with the art committee. The art committee will meet after the Commission meeting to continue to discuss the exhibition logistics.

Art Goes to School:

The Commission Chair had no material update from Karene.

History & Preservation

Site Signs: Commissioner Kuhl informed the Commission that there were no material updates from Delaware Twp or Clay Mason on the signage issues.

Sites of Historic Interest: Chair Stevens reported that she is continuing to work with a Tewksbury, Readington and Lebanon Township on their tardy contributions. The project continues to move forward, slowly. The Girls Scouts might help with Raritan Township.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio indicated there are no material updates.

Architecture in Education:

Chair Stevens reported that Commissioner Pickell agreed to work on a book documenting Hunterdon's architectural history for the 300th anniversary, but he is very busy with numerous private commissions.

Hunterdon's Civil War Vets: Commissioner Rice opened a discussion about alternative book bindings; cover weight for the book as well as the potential for an online version of the book. The Commission seemed to agree that spiral bound will work best for this project. The book will be about 180 pages in an 8.5 X 11 format. Commissioner Rice felt the book will be ready to index before the next Commission meeting.

300th Anniversary of the County: Commissioners Kuhl and Jones reported there are no material updates.

Essay Contest: Chair Stevens reiterated the date and timing of the Essay Contest and asked Frank Curcio to take photographs. The Distinguished Achievement Award event is also scheduled in conjunction with the Freeholder meeting on **May 15** in the Historic Courthouse.

Distinguished Achievement Award Scheduled for **May 15**, 4 PM, before the Freeholder meeting to be followed by the Essay Contest awards event.

Chairman's Report: None

V. OLD BUSINESS

Deed Research Event/ **May 5**, 2012:

This event will be held in the Deed Room with the cooperation of the County Clerk. Commissioner Jones will prepare a Press Release; staff should pursue the purchase of graph paper, pencils, compasses and protractors for the event.

Arts/History Expo:

June 23 from 11-3 date and times were approved. Staff recommended opening this Expo up to the public to introduce the organizations to the public and get a wider range of participants. Organizations will set up at 11AM and meet other organizations for an hour; the general public would be invited to attend between noon and 3PM.

Flemington Plein Air Exhibit:

Chairperson Stevens informed the Commission about the May 19 Flemington Plein Air event and exhibit and asked Commissioners Hunt & Jones to help judge the finished works.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairperson read a letter from State of NJ Historic Preservation Office congratulating the Vought House project team on winning the 2012 NJ historic Preservation award. The award will be presented on Tuesday May 1, 2012. The Chairperson recommended the Commissioners attend if possible as this was a long term effort by the Vought House project team and the Commission.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Drake moved, Rice 2nd to adjourn.
Motion carried Meeting adjourned at 11:28a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rick Steffey