

**Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES**

**Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday February 23, 2012
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ**

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

Absent: Elizabeth M. Rice, George B. Melick

Staff Present: Kevin Richardson, Rick Steffey

O.P.M.A.

At 9:33 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 January 26, 2012 MINUTES

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

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

C&H staff updated the Commission on recent discussions with the NJSCA on the potential cuts to Planning Dept staff. Staff reported that the NJSCA contact is comfortable that the Commission is not at risk for being dissolved. Staff reminded the Commission the 2011 Final Report was due March 15 not the March 31 date noted on the agenda. Staff provided brief update on the receipt of the NJSCA 12-13 funds by the County and staff efforts to reach the Re-Grantees and get the payment process moving.

NJHC (New Jersey Historical Commission)

Long Range History Plan:

C&H Staff indicated that the long range plan meeting was scheduled for Friday February 24 in the "Big Room "here. Staff had contacted over 40 organizations and was expecting a broad representative turnout.

2011-12 Mini-Grant Applications:

Staff noted that the Mini-Grants have been requisitioned and all the award recipients have been notified. There was a discussion on payment timing and staff indicated it will follow the normal County process, and is contingent upon the recipients in returning their purchase orders to the County.

Preservation Grants:

Staff indicated the grants were due on March 15, 2012

Staff also spoke to the Commission members about a comprehensive chart that captures all re-grantees under all Commission programs. Said chart is posted on the Commission office wall.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Culture: Commissioner Jones reported that the Poetry event in Lambertville was so well received he's being scheduled in several other municipalities. Hampton is getting an Abe Lincoln impersonator, and the Commission intends to use him for a number of the smaller schools. Other than scheduling issues the program is running well. There was a brief discussion about the limits to photography at the schools and its impact on documenting or advertising the school events.

2012 Arts Exhibition: Commissioners Hunt & Jones confirmed that the Prallsville Mill will be the site of this year's exhibit; and the show will hang on September 4. There was a discussion on where the art show banners are as they seem to be missing. The Commission asked staff if they might help locate those banners. Commissioner Hunt will make a list of potential show jurors and to discuss with the Art Show Committee. A date for the Art Show Committee planning session was discussed but no date was confirmed.

Art Goes to School: Karene Nebel is looking to step down at the end of her term. A successor has not been discussed. The Commission Chair spoke briefly about the program and how valuable it is.

History & Preservation

Site Signs: Commissioner Kuhl reported that he has several requests for site signs. There was a discussion of the placement of the Lansdowne sign and how it should be oriented. There was concern about safety when reading the sign. There was discussion as to whether or not there would be a sign program in 2013. Commissioner Kuhl confirmed that all the 2012 signs have been approved and are in production.

Sites of Historic Interest: Chair Stevens reported a concern that Tewksbury Twp and Readington Twp amongst others have not supplied their information and no resolution in sight. There was a discussion about the scope of the work and the process however no action was taken by the Commission. The mapping will continue as planned.

Roads of Home: Commissioner Curcio reported he is close to fully documenting the pre-encounter trail networks, and continues to edit the sections and review for accuracy.

Architecture in Education: Commissioner Pickell reported that the children have finished painting the houses. The Commission Chairman recommended the creation of a historical architecture book documenting the 300 years of Hunterdon history. Commissioner Pickell agreed to work on that project.

Hunterdon's Civil War Vets: Commissioner Kuhl reported that his work is completed and is waiting on Commissioner Rice to complete the project. She graduates in March and won't be able to work on this until then.

300th Anniversary of the County: There was a discussion on the poor attendance at the last meeting. Director Karrow will be selecting activity leaders and they will be fully responsible for implementation in their respective areas. Commission Chair Stevens reported that Senator Lance's office indicated that the County should receive notice from the NEA on the Paul Jennis Mural project in late March.

Essay Contest: Reminders will be sent out.

Chairman's Report:

Parks & Rec Liaison Report: Commissioner Curcio reported that the program has ended. There was a discussion on utilizing the former Park & Rec tours for the 300th celebration. Commissioner Jones asked Commissioner Curcio to provide a list of the tours with a cost estimate for them so that information can be transmitted to the 300 Committee. Commissioner Curcio agreed that he would chair the program as adopted for use for the celebration.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Davidson spoke about an upcoming book on the Lindberg Case, which is expected to be published later this year.

There was discussion about using unspent State historic funds to hold a Deed Research Workshop. The Commission agreed that was good idea, and C&H Staff reminded the Commission the State funds needed to be encumbered by June. An April date was discussed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various fliers/brochures, newsletters, invitations, press releases, meeting notices, et al.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Various fliers/brochures, newsletters, invitations were available for review by the members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Drake moved, Jones 2nd to adjourn. Motion carried Meeting adjourned at 11:25a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rick Steffey