

**Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES**

**Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday October 25, 2012
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ**

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, Chair; Lora W. Jones, Vice Chair; Frank Curcio; James Davidson; Beverly N. Drake; John Kuhl; Christopher Pickell; Elizabeth (Beth) M. Rice

Absent: Janet M Hunt (excused)

Staff Present: Rick Steffey; Kevin Richardson

The Commission took a moment to celebrate with Beverly & say fare-thee-well; Beverly is leaving the Commission after 32 years to relocate to California where her Daughter lives. Beverly was presented with, and read aloud, a Resolution from the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognizing her service and dedication to the residents of Hunterdon County.

I. O.P.M.A.

At **10:02 a.m.** Chairman Stevens declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. APPROVAL OF September 27, 2012 MINUTES

The Chair asked the Committee to look over the September 27 Minutes and indicate if they were satisfactory.
Moved by Lora Jones to accept, 2nd James Davidson, Motion Carried.
No additions or corrections

III. GRANT REPORTS

This was deferred, by the Chair, and moved to later in the Agenda.

IV. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture: Commissioner Jones reported she was “ready to throw-in-the-towel” professing it has been very difficult to have a dialogue with, and engage, the schools. There is approximately \$125 left-over for programs this year. The Commission discussed how best to distribute the funds and to whom; if it could be used for Art Goes to School programming; NO, or perhaps donated for a specific purposed or used by alternative home\private schools. The Chair asked the members to put their thinking-caps on and report back at the next meeting.

Bus to Culture: Commissioner Stevens indicated there was no substantive report update. The Commission acknowledged that Mr. Roth recently passed away; and that the Hunterdon County Division of Seniors, Disabilities and Veterans Services has been lacking in advertising and publicizing events and programs. Rich Chrysafis will be contacted.

Art Exhibit: the 2012 Exhibit is over. The Commission, again, discussed moving the Exhibit venue to Flemington, i.e. the "Stengel Pottery Factory". Commissioner Pickell reported that was not going to work as the owners are insistent on using the space for a farmers market during Thurs-Saturdays. Commissioner Stevens reported there has been an artists' movement to paint smaller, and inexpensive art for sale; including employing store-front venues (i.e. Mikasa in downtown Flemington). Commissioner Curcio offered and recommended there should be an Exhibit Policy stipulating some art *be priced to sell (e.g. under \$100)*. Commissioner Davidson suggested a Cheap Art Exhibit. Commissioners reported the Shows' Art is not selling, which is a critical source of funds for the Commission, and the economy is hurting art sales in general. Commissioner Stevens asked if it is more important to address art for appeal by the masses' or principally for higher-end users. Commissioner Rice posed the question whether the intent of revamping the Art Exhibit is to earn more income or create new venues and art show opportunities. The Commission expressed its dissatisfaction, by and large, with the Sawmill (Prallsville Mills), and the challenges present to find other venues including considering temporary \ *roving* locations and related costs.

[Rick was asked to inquire with Pia about the whereabouts of the Commission's exhibit panels, which was purchased by and owned by the Commission. Commissioners Jones, Rice and Pickell were asked to meet more about and investigate new venue locations including Flemington.]

Art Goes to School:

The Commission Chair reported Art Goes to School had their meeting yesterday; and that Joan Wolsiefer. has now taken over for Karene N. and that Art Goes to School has a few more new recruits and volunteers.

History & Preservation

Site Signs: Commissioner Kuhl informed the Commission that this year's signs have been delivered but the Sign Shop hasn't yet found the time to spot and install them; John will follow-up in the next week or so. Commissioner Kuhl also indicated there have been several suggestions for new signage from outside the Commission, for example: Everittstown, Sergeantsville Town Hall, John Hencheck's Lambertville Wall, Hunterdon County's Courthouse, DAR Cemetery in Whitehouse, Rosemont-Raven Rock Ridge, Milford's Railroad wreck, Holcombe's Mill and Rockefeller's Mill. Commissioner Davidson also suggested Mountain View School. Lastly, Commissioner Kuhl reported the Quaker Church Sign is fading and should be replaced.

The Chair then asked John about the status of the Civil War Veteran's Book. Commissioner Rice reported she is awaiting a new computer to begin completing the remaining work. Commissioner Stevens asked if the book can be finished in time for sale next year. The Commission also discussed the update for the 300th Book - which is envisioned for printing in 2014 for the County's 300th anniversary.

Sites of Historic Interest: Chair Stevens reported she and Patty Liedner continue to have discussions about the inventory; and the issues and puzzles which still exist with certain municipalities, i.e. Milford. The Chair indicated the goal should be about staying true to updating the earlier inventory (Commissioner Curcio offered: "Update to Volume 1"); and not creating a new one. The Commission principally agreed that supplements can always be added ("Volume 2, etc.).

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio shared some information with the Commission about abutters' rights, including recent case law. He explained what abutters' rights are, provided examples, and the differences between rights-of-way, etc. The Book is planned and scheduled to go out mid next year.

The Chair indicated the Commission needs to make some impressive decisions, and then went to

GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

Staff reported on the NJSCA grant requests (15 in all) and panel review which is in the process of meeting next week. Staff discussed the concept-idea of awarding base grants for equitable distribution because there are more funds requested than available. The Chair responded that recommendation should come from the Panel; and not staff. Staff also indicated the 2013 SCOA Grant Application is due by the end of December this year and must be submitted in SAGE (System for Administering Grants Electronically). Rick explained he is waiting to receive a log-on and password to access SAGE.

Chair Stevens indicated the NJSCOA Total Grant is \$63,000 with the Commission typically retaining \$13,000 for its use and needs. She then explained the Commission was hoping to provide a significant grant, this year, to Paul Jennis for the 300 History Mural; however the NJ Historical Commission expressed its reservation to provide funding so the Chair suggested utilizing, and taking more off the top of the NJSCOA's general operating support grant for this purposes. She suggested taking \$5-\$10 K extra and asked the Committee for input. After considerable discussion, the Chair canvassed the individual Commissioners who principally agreed to fund the Mural Project and then offered to retain \$23,000 of the 2013 NJSCOA Grant; allocating \$10K by the Commission to separately fund the Mural Project, \$13K for Commission arts events and projects, and the remaining \$40K for LAP re-grant application projects.

NJHC (New Jersey Historical Commission)

Staff reported on discussions with the NJHC about the History Mural Project; and NJHC's offer to allow a portion of the Commission's 2013 general operating support grant to be used to underwrite a history lesson plan in connection with schooling-educational component envisioned once the (larger) Mural Project is finished. Staff further reported the NJHC has asked for some additional clarifications and modifications to the Grant's approved expenditures, in SAGE, which will be done in the immediate future. The Commission agreed to hire an outside individual to write the lesson plan; and decided to earmark \$500 per panel-theme, and total expense of \$1,500 of the grant for the history plan.

Staff suggested and asked the Commission to consider a motion for both the NJSCOA and NJHC Grant funding; since they involve expenditure decisions by the Commission. Before acting, the Commission Chair discussed the Special Projects Grant and asked Commissioner's Curcio and Rice, and Kuhl, to be on the Commission Review Panel.

Chair Stevens then called for a Vote on the NJSCOA Grant: proposing holding \$23,000 for the Commission and \$40,000 for re-grant projects and asked for a motion.

Moved by Commissioner Drake to accept, 2nd Commissioner Rice; all in favor Aye: Motion Carried.

Chair Stevens then called for a Vote on the NJHC Grant of \$13,000 (\$13,146): proposing using \$8,500 for re-grant projects and keeping an additional \$1,500 by the Commission for part of the Mural's history lesson plan's expense(s).

Moved by Commissioner Kuhl to accept, 2nd Commissioner Curcio; all in favor Aye: Motion Carried.

Staff asked for a clarification and an affirmation by the Commission that it is agreeing to allocate \$8,500 for re-grants and the remainder of the NJHC grant, in the amount of \$4,646, for use by the Commission in support of history including the lesson plan; YES.

Lastly, the Chair indicated the Special Projects Grants will be handled directly by the Commission, at a later date.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Applications for Commission Members

Chair Stevens stated applications were received from 3 applicants who applied by Beverly's position. Lee Roth, Andrew Huzar, and Linda Dujack, the latter a Ph.D. \ "artist" and involved with biology in art. The Chair reminded the Commission Art Commissioners are replaced with Artists; and Historians for History Commissioners. Commissioner Jones asked if the Commission needs to take a Vote whereupon the Chair replied the Commission makes recommendations to the Freeholder Board. After further discussion, the Commission agreed to recommend Linda Dujack to the Board for appointment; and keep Andrew Huzar in mind for future consideration.

Chair Stevens also mentioned Commissioner Curcio's appointment expires at the end of this year and asked if the Commission/Commissioners recommended re-appointment for another 5-year term; YES.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Lindbergh \ Davidson:

Commissioner Davidson thanked the Historical Society for its sponsorship of the book's release - event, which will take place on Saturday at the Historic Courthouse.

Architecture for 300th \ Pickell & Rice

Discussed were the architectural assignments i.e. train stations, churches, mills, etc. by individuals with Commissioner Pickell.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Curcio reported on the Spruce Run Tour this past week, with Division of Parks and Recreation. The next tour is train stations on the 18th of November.

Commissioner Davidson reported on the bus tour in East Amwell. The next tour is the Lindbergh House in East Amwell and sites in Hopewell (Mercer County).

Beverly Drake was wished fare well.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at noon. Commissioner Davidson moved, Commissioner Rice 2nd.

Respectfully submitted

Kevin Scott Richardson
November 20, 2012