

**Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES**

**Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday September 26th, 2013
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ**

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, Lora W. Jones, John Kuhl, Chris Pickell, Frank Curcio, Janet Marsh Hunt,
James Davidson

Absent: Anne M. Hewitt PhD, Elizabeth Rice

Staff Present: Rick Steffey, Susan Holcombe-Pena

I. O.P.M.A.

At 9:38 a.m. Chair Stevens declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 25th, 2013 MINUTES

Moved by Curcio to approve, Seconded by Jones, Motion Carried.

No additions or corrections

III. WELCOME PAULA STEPHENS, PROGRAM OFFICER-ARTS IN COMMUNITIES STATE OF NJ

IV. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

Paula Stephens from the State of New Jersey joined us for our monthly meeting. Ms. Stephens gave the commission some insightful ideas on how to promote the arts and history. Implementing a state wide cultural fair, a cultural district in downtown Flemington could be an asset. Getting the multicultural groups more involved, schools, churches, restaurants and social services outlets. With more community based organizations involved there is hope that the programs will sustain and survive. She informed the group that the "Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax" funds the arts and history. But she insists that we will have to fight for more funding, for at least 2 million more dollars, possibly on a barter system with the legislatures. One million could go to re-granting and the other million to tourism, promotions, marketing. Artpride NJ started a marketing campaign a lobbying effort to appeal to the boards to call, write in to the legislature, the governor and request more money for the arts.

NJHC (New Jersey Historical Commission)

Chair Stevens informed the commission that the state has denied our historical grant. Chair Stevens stated that we have applied for a "project grant" in hopes that will be approved. These monies would go to promoting the 300th.

Mini Grant - Projects

Chair Stevens reported that there is no information at this time.

Application Revision Committee Update

Commissioner Curcio stated that there hasn't been any time to properly look at the application. Chair Stevens stated that a need application would need to be posted in the middle of August if possible for next round, but if that could not be done the old application would still work.

IV. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Jones reported that Kids Kulture has enough funds to do four shows. She has reached out to 8 schools to schedule events, but to date only one school has responded.

Art Exhibition at Prallsville Sawmill Gallery:

Commissioner Jones reported that the art show has been a success. On the opening night two pieces sold, from artists **James Callahan** and **Li-hsien Chung Price**. The art show is in its final week, closing on Sunday September 29th.

Art Goes to School:

Chair Stevens reported that AGTS has a meeting scheduled on October 17th. They have 2 new people as per **Joan Wolsifier**. They have the possibility of using one of the volunteers to do the paperwork associated with the group since more volunteers have joined.

History & Preservation

Site Signs

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena reported that Scott Fernandes at Award Signs will be doing the proofs, hopefully to have something by early next week.

Sites of Historic Interest:

Chair Stevens reported that there are no new updates at this time.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio reported that he applied for the NJ 350 Initiative Grant in the amount of \$8000.00 to help publish his book. Hopefully by the end of December 2013 he will know the outcome.

Hunterdon's Civil War Vets:

Chair Kuhl reported that there are no new updates at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Facebook Page

Staff Susan Holcombe Pena reported that she had drawn up a memo to present to the commission. Once the commission looks it over, the memo would be presented to Cindy Yard and the Freeholders for approval.

Once that has been established, then IT will help build the site and get Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage out on line.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Pickell/Rice: Architecture for 300th

No updates at this time.

Farmer Interviews

Chair Stevens reported that she has 3 more farmers to interview.

HCPB/C&H Recognition 2014 / Graphics

No updates at this time.

First 300 Years of Hunterdon County Book

Commissioner Jones reported that this weekend September 28th, the Chili cook off will commence at the fairgrounds. This is one of many fundraising event that the county is hold for the 300th.

VII ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

• VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, **Commissioner Curcio moved to adjourn. Motion carried** Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted

Susan Holcombe-Pena