

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday July 31st, 2014
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, John Kuhl, Jim Davidson, Annie Hewitt, Frank Curcio, Christopher Pickell, Maeve Pambianchi, Lora Jones, Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder John King

Not Present: Beth Rice,

Staff Present: Susan Holcombe-Pena, Rick Steffey

O.P.M.A.

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

I. APPROVAL OF JUNE 26, 2014 MINUTES

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

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

2014 50% went out to the regrantees. Interim report has been submitted. 5 out of 13 re-grantees have sent back the signed grant agreement forms. Once the next voucher from the state arrives than the next 25% can be distributed to the re-grantees. Final payment and paperwork is not due until December, than that closes out the 2014 NJSCA grant.

2015-2018 grant round.....

NJHC Project Grant DOI

The History DOI is due on August 15th, 2014. Chair Stevens idea was to hire a consultant to do an interpretive adaption plan for the Holcombe-Jimison Museum Farm. This would be an interpretation project of an historic site for the benefit of local tourists and public. We/They could receive a maximum of \$20,000.00. Chair Stevens stated that we need to have Commissioner Pickell and Davidson sit down with the board to get them to agree with this. Chair Stevens thought that this would be beneficial to the museum for continue progress. Commissioner Kuhl asked if monies could be used for cataloging historical books, Chair Stevens stated that this grant is a site specific grant.

II. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Jones stated that she has \$2,500.00 in grant monies that need to be spent before the end of the year. Commissioner Pambianchi and Jones will hopefully collaborate with an idea for that money.

Art Goes to School:

Chair Stevens stated Joanne Wolsifier is on the mend and will start again soon for the upcoming school year.

History & Preservation

Site Signs:

Commissioner Kuhl stated the sign guy that the commission uses appears to have gone out of business. Staff will obtain a new person for the commissions sign work. Mr. Leith and Commissioner Kuhl have yet to get together for a review of the historic cemeteries due to the schedules. Commissioner Kuhl stated that he is hopeful that within a week or two they can sit down and go over the list.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio had nothing to report at this time.

Sites of Historic Interest:

Chair Stevens had nothing to report at this time.

III. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPEMENT

Freeholder Lagay said that she was encouraging increase from NJSCA. We obtained \$2,500 more money, for a total amount of \$66,464. The NJSCA had stated that they are encouraged at the direction the C&H Commission is going, it is hopeful for the next round. Freeholder Lagay thanked everyone who was involved in the grant. Lagay commented that this is the first time in 300 years that we are in the process in working on a strategic plan for the county and that we are looking into branding our county. We are forwarding looking and its part of our plan.

LASI for the arts was declined, but once we establish an Executive Director, and the structure is in place the Arts Coordinator position could also be established once the NJSCA sees that we mean what we say, that the likeliness of getting an Arts person is better.

There are 2 finalists for the Executive Director position. On Wednesday August 12th we will be having a meeting with our Human Resources Director, me and Sue, Lora and Stephanie.

Freeholder King commended the work that the entire commission put into the NJSCA grant and the time that Freeholder Lagay put into preparing the materials for the grant.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Marcia Csepes & Sue Reardon/ 1800 DVD creation:

Marcia presented the rough copy of the 1800 DVD. The Old Flemington Fair Grounds were discussed, changing the name to just Flemington Fair Grounds instead. There was also question of the army using the fairgrounds, but in discussion it was decided to leave it. There also was a question of the trains, and who moved the peaches. It was agreed upon that that all 3 trains had an involvement in moving the produce, the Jersey Central Railroad, Leigh High Valley Railroad, and the Rock a Bye Baby Rail Road. Commissioner Pambianchi had two comments about the DVD, 1. Children reading the script might be better 2. She thought the visuals were slow, she thought the static photographs were slow. She thought that children might be interested in it. She also said that filming it would have been better. Sue Reardon also commented that we are doing these ourselves and that they are not capable at this time to do that sort of work. Commissioner Curcio commented that he thought that the kids would like this better than a text book. Commissioner Pambianchi thought doing this in film format would be much more exciting even child narrators too. Chair Stevens stated that there isn't enough time to do that. Freeholder King commented that "moving forward" say after the 300th, we could update this form media. Maybe the next editions take out a project to make it a film or movie so it's not a static show. Moving forward Chair Stevens asked if there are any corrections within the DVD,

Commissioner Jones pointed out a few corrections as did Commissioner Kuhl. Freeholder Lagay thought that having this as a possible self-tour would be marvelous since the C&H department will be moving to the Historic County Courthouse. It would be great to go along with the gallery and triptychs. Sue Reardon also brought up having a listening station at the library for the DVD also.

VI. OLD NEWS

Cultural Directory Update:

Staff reported that the listing is moving slowly at this point due to vacations. IT has come up with a web page that is like The Chamber of Commerce's directory with drop downs. Staff will ask the IT department to start the process of implementing the people into the website page. Freeholder Lagay asked if it could be completed enough for September when the NJSCA comes to visit; staff thought it could be possible. Staff will contact the IT department and see if we can move it along.

Planning & Cultural & Heritage Awards:

Chair Stevens, Carol Hoffman, & Commissioner Hewitt went through all the C&H applicants that met the criteria and final decisions had been met for the awards. The event will be held Monday night September 29th at Razberries Banquet Center. Jim Davidson thought that maybe next year could have a category for "Life Time Achievement".

Fair Schedule:

Chair Stevens thought that bringing the photos that are left from the "A Click in Time" exhibit should be set out for the public to see. The Flemington 4-H and Agricultural Fair schedule to be set today for the commissioners to man the table. On Wednesday Freeholder King will be there after 4pm for the Veteran's medal awards. Books once again will be sold.

Tillers of the Soil:

Commissioner Jones brought in the rough copy of the "Tillers of the Soil" book that will go to print shortly.

Letter from Dr. Shaddow:

Chair Stevens, Commissioner Davidson and Pickell will attend a meeting with Dr. Shaddow to assess the condition of the Seals house. Staff will send a letter to Dr. Shaddow.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

Various flyers/brochures, newsletters, press releases were available for review by the members.

• VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Curcio moved to adjourn. **Motion carried**
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena