

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday May 29, 2014
Bldg. # 1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Twp., NJ

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, John Kuhl, Chris Pickell, Jim Davidson, Frank Curcio, Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, Maeve Pambianchi, Freeholder John King

Guest: Paul Jennis

Not Present: Anne Hewitt, Beth Rice, Christopher Pickell

Staff Present: Rick Steffey, Susan Holcombe-Pena

O.P.M.A.

At 9:37 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 MARCH 27, 2014 MINUTES (No April Minutes)
Moved by Kuhl to approve, Seconded by Curcio, Motion Carried.

II. GRANT REPORTS

NJSCA (New Jersey State Council on the Arts)

The NJSCA 2013 final approved by the state, we should be getting our 15% soon. The 2014 has also been approved we are waiting on the first part, 50 % (\$30,000). The interim reports for this round is due by the end of July even though monies have not been allocated as of yet by the state. The 2015 LAP and LASI application has accepted; the commission has a time on June 5th at 4:20pm to participate either via phone or in person at the state to discuss our intent. Freeholder Lagay thought that going to the state would make it seem better instead of a phone conversation. She thought that the state might take our intent "more seriously". The commission was asked to get back to her if people wanted to attend.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Jones reported that there are no programs going on at the moment. Two are scheduled for the fall.

Art Goes to School:

Chair Stevens reported from Joanne Wolseifer that 1,712 public school students and 108 private school children had attended there sessions. The ARC had no count at this time since it is an ongoing event throughout the year

Art Show 2014 "A Click in Time":

Commissioner Jones reported that 52 photos had been received. At the ceremony on May 9th there were over 70 people in attendance. Elementary Division, Finnoula Cahill first prize, Elisa Boothe second prize. Middle

School Division, Matthew Valentine first prize, Isabella Carrega second prize. High School Division, Amy Wain first prize, Bethany Bonacorsi second prize. The Hunterdon County Democrat ran the awards ceremony. Commissioner Jones stated that the humidity in the room is raising havoc with the photos staying on the boards; hopefully a resolution will come since the photo show runs until the end of June.

History & Preservation

Mini-Historian Essay Contest:

Chair Stevens reported that 144 students had been involved in the essay contest. Our Mini-Historian Contest ceremony was held on May 20th at 6:30 pm at the Historic Courthouse. 2014 Mini-Historian is Sean Milian who wrote about Barnet Hall Academy. Our Second Prize County went to Elisna Terblanche who wrote about High Bridge Middle School. Freeholder Lagay thought the event was charming. Freeholder King thought that everything went very well. Freeholder King commented about the little boy who came to the 4:30pm session since he couldn't make the 6:30pm ceremony, they let him open the executive session and acknowledged his award there instead.

Site Signs:

Freeholder Lagay stated that a letter had been sent out to Mr. Frank White in regards to the historical marker associated with the Colonel Charles Stewart house and property in Franklin Township. Documentation had been sent with the letter with the information pertaining to the research of the property. Commissioner Kuhl had stated that he had attempted before to have this information on hand for Mr. White to review, but he did not come to look at the "proof".

Commissioner Kuhl stated that Kathy Large, who is a relative of the Upland estate, would like the historic site sign the "The Uplands" to be changed to "Uplands". Mrs. Large has been a very big donator of monies to various endeavors within the county; she has even offered to pay to have the sign replaced. Freeholder King thought it was not unreasonable, order the "corrected" sign and the County will pay for the sign. The account to draw from will be established when the order goes in. **Commissioner Jones moved to have the historic site sign replaced, Commissioner Kuhl seconded the motion, and all are in favor.**

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio reported that it is coming along.

Sites of Historic Interest:

Chair Stevens had nothing to report at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Grant Awards for the Open Space Trust:

Chair Stevens reported that 6 had applied for the \$319,035.77 in grant funds. Five have been awarded there full requested amounts, the 6th Reading Large House is on hold and has been handed over to the Freeholders for a decision at this time. Chair Stevens appointed a committee to make recommendations, Pat Olsen and Anne Hewitt.

1. Hunterdon Historical Society - The Doric House/interior painting \$15,300.00. Chair Stevens, Commissioner Kuhl, and Jones recused themselves from the vote.
Commissioner Curcio moved to approve, Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion, all in favor.
2. Quakertown United Methodist Church - Exterior Restoration, paint \$14,250.00

Commissioner Kuhl moved to approve, Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, all in favor.

3. 1759 Vought House – Second phase of rehab/remove stucco, prep masonry for restoration \$15,000.00

Commissioner Kuhl moved to approve, Commissioner Curcio seconded the motion, all in favor.

4. Lebanon Township-Township of Lebanon Museum- Addition of restroom facilities \$60,000.00

Commissioner Jones moved to approve, Chair Stevens seconded the motion, Commissioner Davidson opposed the motion, Kuhl, Curcio, Pambianchi in favor.

5. Hunterdon Land Trust – Case Dvoor Farmstead- Reconstruction of wagon house \$99,550.00. Freeholder King questioned that the property does not have complete public access. The application stated, the wagon house would be used as a rustic classroom, small events and public meeting room place, which in turn its now being used as public use which would in turn be within the rules of the grant

Commissioner Davidson moved to approve, Commissioner Jones seconded, all in favor.

On hold – Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce- Reading Large House – Repairs to roof, porch, interior/front painting/rehab to exterior asking for \$300,000.00

The Reading-Large house request for a grant has been handed over to the Freeholders at this time. It appears the house is not owned by the Chamber of Commerce Fee Simple. Although, this house is in need of these grant monies as it holds historic value, the rules at this time keep us from executing this grant at the Commission level. The Freeholder Board will be notified of the remaining funds and the Commission will wait for the Freeholder Board direction.

The Hiring of an Executive Director:

Freeholder Lagay will obtain the job description for the Commission, Chair Stevens hasn't seen a copy as of yet. There are 4 applicants so far for the position that has been posted. Chair Stevens wants to also look at the applications that are on hand so far.

V. OLD BUSINESS

300th Mural Update:

Chair Stevens stated the teachers have a recommendation for presenting the murals to the school. Starting September the first 1700 panel will be introduced; the second 1800 panel will be in October, and November the final panel will be presented to the schools. All through the summer months the teachers will be working on finalizing the curriculum.

Cultural Directory Update:

Staff Susan Holcombe-Pena brought in 2 copies of the data base. Currently there are about 180 entries in the data base. Commissioner Jones said that she would take a copy and edit and re-arrange where some of the entrées might be better suited to go. Staff questioned some of the entrees, but thought that the Commission could make a better decision on what to do with some of them.

First 300th Years of Hunterdon County:

Commissioner Jones has nothing to report. Marcia Karrow has taken all the books to sell, no more has been ordered that we are aware of. Commissioner Jones and Chair Stevens want more books ordered and charged to the 300th Committee. Staff will call Pam at CP&M and discuss details.

Paul Jennis Mural Update:

Paul came with his iPad and showed photos with the progress of the mural. The first and second mural he “fused” to have a nice flow when all placed together. Chair Stevens informed the Freeholders that they should make a trip to see the almost finished mural. The mural would be “upstairs” in the main Library for at least 6 months after the unveiling than possibly the Historic County Court House as a permanent home.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

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

• **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena