

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

Present: Stephanie B. Stevens, John Kuhl, Jim Davidson, Frank Curcio, Lora Jones, Beth Rice, Maeve Pambianchi, Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder John King

2 Vacancies open on Commission

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

Staff Present: Susan Holcombe-Pena

Guests: Joan Wolsiefer, Evelyn Voget

O.P.M.A.

At 9:34 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 SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

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

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Fellows stated that the New Jersey State Council of the Arts meeting went fabulously. The NJSCA executive director mentioned to staff that this was quite possibly the best meeting held out in the field. We are working on a media release with images to go out.

The NJSCA Local Arts Program (LAP) grants review panel met. Donna Jensson, Estelle Katcher, George Trogler met. A draft resolution has been made and a recommendations page is available for review.

The Flemington Creative Team brainstorming meeting was held at the Historic Flemington Courthouse. Commissioners Pambianchi and Jones also attended. The meeting was moderated by Katie Dempsey. There is a lot of support for Flemington Boro, and it appears there is opportunity to collaborate with them.

Courthouse move – goal is to be in by the start of the New Year. Files and file cabinets are starting to go over. We are working with Purchasing for items needed. Chair Stevens reminded those present that there is a plan which addresses the lighting needs for the courthouse. Chair Stevens requested Commissioner Jones meet with the E.D. and County Architect Frank Bell to discuss lighting needs.

III. GRANT REPORTS

Chair Stevens's commented that there were fewer LAP grant applicants this year than in the past, and of those who did apply, some applications were incomplete and therefore were not considered. The Commission is keeping \$21,464.00 for the local arts development program, the \$45,000.00 left would be distributed to the re-grantees that qualified, some with conditions attached. If the conditions are not met, the grantee will not be funded. **Chair Stevens asked for a motion to approve the \$45,000.00 allotted to the re-grantees. Moved by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Kuhl, All in favor.**

Chair Stevens asked that a committee be made for the Special Projects Grants given out by the Commission. Chair Stevens asked that Commissioner Kuhl, Commissioner Curcio, and Commissioner Rice be on that committee.

IV. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture:

Commissioner Pambianchi reported “Ten Hairy Legs” will perform for Immaculate Conception School and “Arm of the Sea” will perform for Frenchtown Public School. Unfortunately Holland Township didn’t call back in time to secure a date. Dates in December will be announced shortly. Commissioner Pambianchi had commented that it was rather difficult to get the schools to respond ...even to a free event. There is no more funding left for the year in Kids Kulture.

Art Goes to School:

Chair Stevens introduced Evelyn Voget as the new Director of the Art Goes to School program, and bid a very fond farewell to Joan Wolsiefer. Joan started back in 1991 and has given us 23 years of service for the program.

History & Preservation

Site Signs:

Commissioner Kuhl reported that the Cemetery list has been submitted to FASTSIGNS for proofs to be done. Once the proofs are approved, the signs will be made. All signs will have a clear coating on them. The “Uplands” sign has been done, and once the other signs have been made a day will be set to have the road department install all the signs.

Roads of Home:

Commissioner Curcio reported that he had his first talk at the library and it went well.

Sites of Historic Interest:

Chair Stevens had nothing to report at this time.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPEMENT

Freeholder Lagay reported that she was pleased the NJSCA Conference here at the Historic Courthouse went great. It was a huge team effort to have everything come together. Freeholder King asked if there was a press release done yet. Executive Director Fellows said that we have one in process, and it’s in for editing. Photos will accompany the release as well.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Stevens Grant:

Chair Stevens reported that the \$5000.00 that the 300th Committee gave to her will be put into a trust. The money then will be used in grants. A simple form will be used to request such funds, probably in increments of \$300 to \$500 dollars for research as the tercentenary group had requested.

Open Commission spots:

Chair Stevens has let the Commission know that this will be her last year on the board. Commissioner Davidson asked how many spots are open at this point. Chair Stevens replied 3 – Annie has resigned, Chris has not been reappointed and the Chair position when I retire at the end of the year.

Commissioner Davidson stated that we need to focus on getting new members before the end of the year. Chair Stevens said that we need to find people that the Freeholders will appoint. We need 2 art people and 1 history person to have a balance on the board.

Commissioner Davidson addressed the Commission with a possible new member, recommending Dave Harding. Commissioner Davidson said that he works part time at the Hunterdon Land Trust and the Hunterdon Museum of Art. Chair Stevens brought up that there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

Commissioner Davidson made a motion to accept recommending Dave Harding to be reviewed by the Freeholders, Commission Rice seconded, All in Favor.

Section 106 Review: 377 Pittstown Road, Franklin Township

Chair Stevens asked the commission what they thought about what is needed to save this structure. It appears that the 1820's house is viable, but it is vacant, overgrown and the septic system apparently failed. It was scheduled for review under Section 106 by the State Historic Sites Council but their meeting was postponed. Chair Stevens asked the commission for consensus to send a letter to the Historic Preservation Office recommending the house be preserved as a contributing element of the local historic district. **Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to send the letter; Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion, All in Favor.**

Section 106 Review: CR579 Bridge, Bloomsbury/Bethlehem– Request for relocation/transfer of ownership:

Commissioner Kuhl started off with, that there is no bridge that is in need of repair so badly than this one. This is a single lane bridge with a traffic light and it has been significantly modified. Executive Director Fellows asked if we want this bridge? the state wants someone to accept ownership and move it so a new one can be built. After further discussion, **Commissioner Kuhl made a motion to recommend that if the bridge was replaced, the historic trusses be integrated into a new structure, Commissioner Curcio seconded, All in Favor.**

Nominating Committee:

Chair Stevens appointed a nominating committee to recommend a slate of officers for 2015, asking that Commissioner Curcio, Commissioner Kuhl and Freeholder Lagay sit on that committee. Executive Director Fellows will coordinate the place and time.

Office Furniture:

Chair Stevens asked Executive Director Fellows about the office furniture situation at the courthouse. Executive Director Fellows replied that she has been instructed to purchase new furniture to complement the Mission style that is upstairs in the courthouse restoration of 1935, although budget is an issue. Chair Stevens indicated a preference for something other than Mission style oak furniture. Commission members offered to assist in the search, and Executive Director Fellows will investigate prices accordingly. This year the furniture purchased will be coming out of the Buildings & Ground Budget as per the Freeholders.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Paul Jennis Mural Update:

Chair Stevens reported that the mural will be unveiled November 1st at 2:00pm at the library. Commissioner Jones will be present to make a small speech.

Cultural Directory Update:

Staff reported that the Directory is up and running on the Cultural & Heritage website. People can still be added at any given time, just submit information to staff.

Tillers of the Soil:

Chair Stevens had stated that she would like more books ordered. On November 8th, Marcia Karrow is having a book signing at the Choir School and the rest of the books on hand would be needed. Staff will order 100/200 more copies of the Tillers book and another 100 of John Kuhl's book "Hunterdon County in the Civil War".

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena