

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday April 30th 2015
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

Present: Lora Jones, John Kuhl, Jim Davidson, Maeve Pambianchi, Robb Sussna, Frank Curcio, Beth Rice

2 Vacancies open on Commission

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

Staff Present: Susan Holcombe-Pena

Guest: Sue Dziamara Planning Director, Suzanne Lagay Freeholder

O.P.M.A.

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

I. APPROVAL OF MARCH 26TH, 2015 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

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

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Jones reported that a resume and application for Commissioner from Susan Oldroyd Laffler came through. Director Fellows and Chair Jones met with Ms. Laffler, who comes highly recommended, and she is a dynamo. Commissioner Rice stated that she spoke with Ms. Oldroyd Laffler at the October NJSCA meeting at the courthouse.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rice to approve Susan Oldroyd Laffler application to be sent to Freeholders with recommendation to appoint, Seconded by Commissioner Curcio. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Jones asked the Commissioners to go to the main library and look at the mural donor plaque that is now mounted on the wall beside the Tricentennial commemorative mural.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Fellows report to the Commission

Meetings attended:

- Met with Freeholder Lagay and Assistant Secretary of State Carol Cronheim to discuss Commissioner recruitment strategies.
- Meetings with County Architect Frank Bell to prepare the Commission space for future exhibitions, particularly regarding gallery lighting and hanging systems under capital improvements in 2015, and preparing for capital requests for 2016. We are considering ways to improve security for the exhibit areas for possible inclusion in the 2016 capital request. She has contacted other organizations for samples of loan and indemnification forms, and to request their policies on care of loaned/exhibited objects, which will inform potential updates to our current practices.

- Also the “Creative Place making webinars” have been interesting, she recommended that everyone looks at the site.
- Executive Fellows stated that Chair, Lora Jones was honored by Rural Awareness and received the 2015 Hiram Deats Award.
- The NJ Historical Commission is going to be changing the way they administer their GOS grants and will be asking the C&H agencies to become more engaged in administering NJHC re-grant funding; an input meeting is scheduled.
- Workshop dates for the Commission’s regrant programs have been mailed to constituents and are on the website.
- May 19th the Essay Contest Awards will be announced. 114 essays had been received so far this year. Instead of a sash, a crystal trophy will be awarded to the Hunterdon County Junior Historian and County 2nd Place winner, and 1st and 2nd District winners will receive medallions and certificates.

IV. GRANT REPORTS

Open Space Historic Trust Fund Review:

Total money available for the grant \$218,341.70. Out of the 4 applicants, \$112,717.00 has been requested:

- Tewksbury Historic Trust-Project, Carriage and Wagon House Restoration; paint. Requested amount \$25,000.00. **The motion as amended to recommend approval of Tewksbury Historical Society’s request for \$25,000.00 pending NJ SHPO project authorization. All in Favor.**
- Hunterdon Land Trust, Case-Dvoor Farm, exterior painting of garage, horse barn and corncrib; masonry repointing of farmhouse garage and wall. Requested amount: \$28,000.00. **Motion to recommend approval of the grant request pending (1) NJ SHPO project authorization and (2) pending the acceptance by POSAC of applicant’s written description of how the proposed plan of work will be accomplished or altered if funds from other designated sources are not realized. All in Favor.**
- Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead, restoration of barn loft door frame. Requested amount \$16,617.00 for emergency repairs (retroactive). **Commissioner Davidson moved to recommend approval of the grant request, pending NJ SHPO issuance of Certificate of Eligibility. Seconded by Commissioner Kuhl.**
- Hunterdon County Historical Society, Doric House roof replacement and chimney work. Requested amount \$43,100.00. Reviewed by Sussna, Davidson and Curcio. Recused: Chair Jones, Commissioners Kuhl and Rice. **Commissioner Davidson, motion to approve recommendation of the grant request; seconded by Commissioner Sussna. All in favor.**

V. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts

Kids Kulture: Commissioner Pambiachi reported that she has been unable to book anything this Spring due to scheduling and performing issues. She is working on booking in the fall. The survey to determine whether or not busing children to shows and the issues that may raise is still a work in progress.

Art Goes to School:

Nothing to report at this time.

Art/History Expo:

Due to several conflicting events the weekend of June 13, only a few registrations for the Expo have been received. Hunterdon County Community Day is also on this day at South County Park. Freeholder Lagay suggested that next year we support that event, since last year it was very well received.

Exhibitions and Programs: Commissioner Pambianchi and Commissioner Sussna are working on materials to send to schools about a children's art exhibit to take place this October, with Hunterdon preserved farmland and historic places as the subject theme. Suggestion made to include online sources for locating historical places.

History & Preservation

Historic Site Signs:

Nothing to report at this time.

VI. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Freeholder Lagay reminded the Commissioners that the Senior Art Show is coming up.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Rosemont Raven Rock Bridge:

Executive Director Fellows reported that the bridge's nomination, which the Commission supported with a letter, will receive a 2015 NJ Historic Preservation award for its restoration at a ceremony on May 14th.

CEDS Presentation:

Sue Dziamara, Hunterdon County Director of Planning, presented a slide show about the Community Economic Development Survey and how it relates to the work of the Cultural & Heritage Commission.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report at this time.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena