

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:00 a.m., Thursday July 30th 2015
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ

Present: Lora Jones, John Kuhl, Jim Davidson, Robb Sussna, Susan Oldroyd

Not Present: Frank Curcio, Maeve Pambianchi, Beth Rice **1 Vacancy open on the Commission**

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

Guests: Planning Board Director Sue Dziarama, Eileen Morales, Executive Director Red Mill Museum

O.P.M.A.

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

Chair Jones recognized Eileen Morales Director of The Red Mill Museum for public comment:

Ms. Morales introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Red Mill Museum in Clinton and reported on activities celebrating the 150 year Anniversary of the Red Mill, including two exhibitions, "Small Town, Big History", and "My Clinton Stories". The Mill is open M-F 10am to 5 pm and Saturday 12-5pm.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 25th, 2015 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

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

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Jones thanked Eileen Morales for her interest in the Commission and invited her to stay if she wished. She briefly outlined a new project in Pittstown, which she said would be discussed more completely later in the meeting. She also talked about the activities and staffing for the 4-H Fair booth and encouraged Commissioners to sign up for the hours they can be there. Carrie will contact re-grantees to see if any of them would like to participate.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Fellows report to the Commission

- Reminder that there will be no August meeting.
- The Commission filed its Interim Report for the NJ State Council of the Arts. Once the check has been received from NJSCA the regrantees in good standing will receive their interim payments.
- Seventeen people attended a Commission workshop on writing grant narratives on July 8th. We will present two workshops in September on the grant programs, and one in November on completing final reports.
- Chair Jones and I edited grant application forms for clarity and are using a new format.
- The 2016 LAP application was approved for continued funding by NJSCA. The LASI grant application was not funded again this year.
- The NJHC reported about changes to their county regrant program at the June ANJCCHA meeting. They are working on updated guidelines for review and will be asking CCHAs to survey potential regrant applicants.
- The "Hunterdon County Museum Days" on July 19 & 26th was a success, with good local media coverage. Fifteen sites participated. A follow-up meeting is planned.
- On August 13th at 7:30pm Judith Russo from Horizon Speakers Bureau will present "Corn, Simply A-Maizeing".
- A 30-page OPRA request was received and completed within the required 7 days. County Counsel was consulted on the response as several items included in the request were for actions or activities not valid under OPRA.

- We continue to work on the website. The IT Department reported that a new template will soon be available.

IV. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Arts/ Kids Culture: Nothing to report at this time.

Arts/ Exhibitions and Programs: Information about the Bridging Art & History program was emailed to schools in mid-July. Hard copies will be mailed the first week of August. Another email will be sent at the end of August and another hard copy mailing will be done after Labor Day. Posters will be sent to Libraries and other venues.

History & Preservation/ Historic Markers:

Commissioner Kuhl requested that marker nominations, if any, be emailed to him, and addressed the Red Mill Museum's request that their outdated sign be replaced before the end of 2016.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Planning Director Sue Dziamara reported that members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders are making presentations to the municipalities on the County Economic Development Strategy. On August 6th the Freeholders will present the CEDS plan at the HART breakfast.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson reported that The East Amwell Historical Committee is having a "Garden Tour" beginning at the Rutgers Nursery and ending at his own home in Delaware Township. The tour is sold out.

Commissioner Davidson also reported that the Clausen House in East Amwell Township has had the windows and some of the exterior siding replaced with historic preservation grant funds from county and state programs.

Commissioner Oldroyd reported that the Patterson Music Project did a successful "day on the farm" with children from the program. Theatre groups performed and the symphony played.

Executive Director Fellows reported that Hunterdon Musical Arts completed their youth music camp with a dress rehearsal in Building One. The students learned the pieces in only a week and performed in a concert on Friday evening.

Peach Exchange

Chair Jones gave a detailed report on land in Pittstown that in the late 1800s was a freight yard for the Lehigh Valley Railroad and is now being considered for purchase by Green Acres for the Fish and Wildlife Department as the trail head for its Capoolong Wildlife Management Area. To prevent five buildings on the property that are listed on the national and state registers for historic places from being torn down, Franklin Township has agreed to accept them. Rural Awareness, a non-profit civic group in Franklin, will manage the site as The Peach Exchange, a regional center for history, art and nature. After considerable discussion, the Commission voted unanimously to send a letter of support for the project to the Freeholders, Franklin Township, and the DEP.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson asked about the progress of the Historic Sites documentation on which Stephanie Stevens and Patty Liedner from GIS were working. Stephanie Stevens said that she would continue to pursue missing data with some of the municipalities.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Holcombe-Pena