

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:30 a.m., Thursday September 24th 2015
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

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

Not Present: Susan Oldroyd **1 Vacancy open on the Commission**

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

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.

APPROVAL OF JULY 30TH, 2015 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Moved by Sussna to approve, Seconded by Rice, Motion Carried.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Jones reported that a Publications Policy needs to be created. Chair Jones stated that writers have never profited from the sale of Commission publications; writing and printing has been done in-house, all book proceeds return to the Commission's Trust account. A committee including Commissioner Rice, Kuhl, and Curcio will meet on 10/1 at 11am to begin drafting a policy based on traditional practice.

Chair Jones reported on progress made to update the Historic Sites registry. The municipalities are slowly responding with the requested information. Commissioner Davidson reported that the East Amwell Preservation Committee will retake 56 pictures when the leaves fall.

Chair Jones reported that a quote came in for the lighting system for \$5350.00. Chair Jones and Commissioner Sussna will review gallery standards against the quote. Director Fellows reported that she has to work with Purchasing to get a quote for the Arakawa hanging system, which Morven Museum (Princeton) uses and their curators recommend.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LAP ReGrants & County Special Projects Grants – Forms and guidelines were edited to clarify requirements and eliminate redundant language. A workshop on each program was offered and was well received; additional edits to the forms and guidelines were made based on participant feedback. IT is assisting to format Excel versions of finance forms. All forms are available on the website.

NJSCA LAP Grant FY2016 – the grant award for FY2016 is \$66,464; contract is due Oct.30.

NJ Historical Commission – made a presentation at the 9/16 ANJCCHA meeting about the county regrant program. They will be posting on their website a draft of the new guidelines for comments. Asking counties to survey constituents after consultant survey is ready.

Corn: Simply A-Maizeing by Judith Krall-Russo on August 13 at 7:30pm was cancelled due to speaker illness.

The Flemington Branding committee will have a lot of activity the last week of October. Please visit the BID website and take the survey for feedback to help plan for Flemington downtown's future.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Nominations for New Commissioners: Chair Jones reported that at the end of the year Commissioner Kuhl and Rice will be leaving us. Two potential history candidates have been identified. Chair Jones asked for others to help brainstorm candidates with a music background. A discussion was held about rescinding a previous vote age-limiting Commissioners (age out after turning 80). Recommendations for new members and reappointments must be submitted by October 30th.

Arts/ Kids Culture: Commissioner Pambianchi reported that the same 3 schools that always want shows have requested the program again. There is \$5000.00 allocated in FY2015 NJSCA LAP grant funds for the program. A discussion followed about replacing the Kids Culture program with a new and fresh idea to engage county students since the schools are overly scheduled. Commissioners were encouraged to think of new approaches.

Arts/ Exhibitions and Programs: Commissioner Sussna expressed concern about the lack of entries to date for the *Bridging Art & History* art competition. The commissioners unanimously decided to see what entries come in before making a decision to postpone.

Hunterdon County Fair: Chair Jones reported that the commission sold \$170.00 in books that week. Several constituents and regrantee organizations provided additional presence in the booth. Commissioner Rice reported that she was approached by Gordon Ward from the radio show "These Days" on WDVR in Sergeantsville regarding potential Commissioner guest spots. Discussion followed about what that might entail. Staff will look into this further.

History & Preservation/ Historic Markers:

Commissioner Kuhl gave a list of site signs to be considered in 2016 with text to be approved by a Commission panel to be created in the near future.

- The Three Brothers
- A Civil War Recruiting Camp
- The Rialto Theater
- Lieutenant Hooper Road
- Butler's Park
- Red Mill
- Dunkard Cemetery #2

IV. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson reported that the Clausen House restoration in East Amwell Township is moving along.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Peach Exchange-Chair Jones reported that it appears that the transition of the property ownership is moving along. Rural Awareness is working with Green Acres and a number of other state, county, and municipal organizations, nonprofit groups and individuals on the project.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Kuhl reported that 2 DVDs about farming life in Hunterdon County were created from videos. "A Man and His Land", and "Where Have All the Farmers Gone". The question was raised if the Commission wants to have some in stock for sales. Chair Jones took the latter DVD home to preview.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Holcombe-Pena