

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:35 a.m., Thursday February 25, 2016
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

Present: Lora Jones, Maeve Pambianchi, Jim Davidson, Susan Oldroyd, Alan Rigoletto, Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom and Carol Cronheim

Not Present: Robb Sussna

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

O.P.M.A.

At 9:35 a.m. Chair Jones declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

APPROVAL OF February 25, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

Moved by Maher to approve, Seconded by Pambianchi, Motion Carried.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Jones welcomed the newly appointed Commissioner Cronheim.

2016 Most Endangered Historic Sites: Nominations are due by 3/31; the release announcing the campaign went out February 18. Qualifying sites will be announced May 12.

Hunterdon County non-profits: in order to comply with grant requirements for the NJ Historical Commission's County History Partnership Program (CHPP), we will need to reach out to all county nonprofits that may benefit from history regrants. A survey template will be provided by the NJHC, so the Commission may determine the countywide nonprofit need for history project/GOS funding. Lists of county nonprofits have been provided to all Commissioners to review, and to add organizations that may have been missed.

Frank Curcio's Book Draft : Lora has almost completed her first reading of the manuscript. She is working with Frank's son who is actively involved in the project. The manuscript needs an editor, and in the future it may be useful to send the book to an outside editor.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Flemington Redevelopment - Director Fellows described briefly the redevelopment concept presented at the Feb. 22 Flemington Borough Council meeting. The developer proposes to demolish several historic buildings, including the Union Hotel, to create a new block of mixed use hotel/retail/residential buildings and a plaza. Freeholder Lagay will request a meeting with the developer so staff and Commissioners may provide recommendations and resources for integrating existing historic buildings into the project, strengthening its appeal to cultural/heritage tourists, and to share concerns expressed by members of the community about the potential loss of historic buildings..

Artist Meeting – we will collaborate with/support local artist Val Silvilli's effort to establish a "hub" of municipal Creative Teams (via Sustainable NJ) which will eventually connect HC artists in a variety of disciplines, for better communication, event marketing, artist support & networking. First "Hub" meeting April 4, 5:30pm at the historic courthouse, 2nd floor.

Senior Programs - Closing out the 2015 LAP grant, Andy Wasserman presented six interactive music therapy performances at local nursing homes. Each performance had a lot of participation and positive responses from clients and residence staff. We will send a list of performances next time so the Commissioners may observe.

Hunterdon County Community Day (Chamber Program) – The Chamber approved the Commission’s registration materials for nonprofits. “Save the Date” notices sent; a few responses received. The Chamber will use only one movable stage this year.

Grants -

NJSCA LAP re-grants – FY2016 - purchase orders requisitions for the first 50% of regrant payments completed for organizations that returned their contracts; still missing two.
FY2015 – Final report filed in SAGE, certification sent & confirmed. Recipient final payments in process.

NJSCA Local Arts Staffing Initiative (LASI) – Application approved by BOCF 4-1; filed application in SAGE, certification sent & confirmed.

NJ Historical Commission – We are still waiting to hear more details so we can begin surveying constituents and begin writing the grant application. Deadline for the Commission’s DOI is May 1; June 1 for the grant application. To create the new regrant application/guidelines required as part of our application, Lora and I will review old forms, look at those from other counties, and work closely with the new CHPP guidelines.

Projects - The gallery lighting project for the Courthouse will most likely begin in the next two weeks. Materials should arrive by next week, then the subsequent installment should take place.

Speakers- *Corn, Simply A-Maize-ing* by Judith Krall Russo will be on April 12 at 7:30 pm at the Courthouse. *Jacqueline Kennedy’s Historic Preservation Legacy – 50 Years Later* by Kathleen Galop will be on May 10th at 7:30 pm, also at the courthouse. The ADA Sensitivity Training by Robert Carr, NJ Theater Alliance will be the week of September 12th.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Art Contest, Exhibit: Commissioner Oldroyd reported that the Hunterdon Art Museum (HAM) is interested in working with us on a collaborative project such as an art exhibit. Commissioner Oldroyd also reported that the Dodge Poetry Program hosts teacher workshops, has been having a hard time breaking into Hunterdon, and would like a chance here.

Poetry Out Loud: Commissioner Cronheim shared what a wonderful program it is for high school students. The state finals will be held on March 27th at The College of New Jersey’s Center of the Arts. Chair Jones indicated that she would like the Commission to go to a School Superintendent’s meeting, introduce the program, and see about involving the faculty. The Commission wishes to spearhead Hunterdon County’s participation in in 2017. A date will be set in the next few months to meet with the Superintendents at their monthly meeting.

World Music Program: Commissioner Rigoletto has compiled a great outline of a full scale World Music Program. Deer Path Park has been reserved for October 1st, 2016 from 10am to 5pm. We will be working with Carol Bodder closely the next few months. Ideas for food vendors and volunteers will be needed, since the budget for this event is \$7500.00 (\$5000.00 from the NJSCA LAP program, and \$2500.00 from the Commission Trust, from the Large Foundation gift).

Stevens Research Fund Policy: Commissioner Maher circulated a rough draft of the policy. The commission was asked to review it and make comments; ideally at the next meeting a second draft will be ready for review.

Junior Historian Essay Contest: Reminder emails are going out about every 2 weeks now to contacts. It was noted that there are 3 “single” requests that could be coming in, essay from children that are not affiliated with their schools since the class didn’t want to participate. These students’ essays would only be eligible for the overall County awards. The essays are due Friday April 18th by 4pm. The awards ceremony will be May 17, 2016.

History & Preservation/ Historic Markers:

Commissioner Davidson reported that last week he, Commissioners Maher, Sherblom and Director Fellows had a meeting on the site marker policy revision. The application will include more rigorous standards for historical research, require a list

of sources, and site images. County Counsel wishes to add language to the application indemnifying county employees and volunteers when entering private property to review the site and place the proposed marker; Executive Fellows reported that if that is done, the policy should be ready for approval by next meeting. The Committee also decided that the Colonel Stewart marker will be removed and stored.

IV. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/COMMENTS /BOARD DEVELOPMENT Nothing to report at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson reported that on Friday February 26th he will be at "Hillbilly Hall Tavern" having a talk on "The Hills of Missing Men" revolving around the Sourlands. He also reported that a new website for the East Amwell Historical Society will be going up soon.

Commissioner Rigoletto reported that he will be performing music from his new release at "The Birdhouse" on March 25th @ 8:00pm. His photography will also be on display.

Director Fellows said that this weekend she will be presenting at a women's history conference, "Beyond Boom-Boom Sticks and Fancy Dress Balls: Women's Lives in Early America" at Washington Crossing Historic Park.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Peach Exchange - Chair Jones reported that there was nothing new at this time.

Historic Site Inventory: Chair Jones reported that a few municipalities have started to submit photos; it is still a slow process to get responses.

Farm Related DVDs: Staff had nothing to report at this time.

First 300 Years of Hunterdon Book: The chair of the 300th Committee has given a verbal and written "ok" for the Commission to pay to have 100 copies of this book re-printed with profits from the book sale to benefit the Commission. The print shop is aware and will start to make re-prints as soon as time allows.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Oldroyd announced that an *a cappella* group, the "Yale Alley Cats", will be in town Easter weekend, and have offered a free performance/workshop. Although it is too short notice to have them perform for us (and on a holiday weekend when maintenance staff are not available), Commissioner Oldroyd will work offline with other Commissioners and contacts to try to find a school workshop venue for them.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Holcombe-Pena*