

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
9:36 a.m., Thursday May 26th, 2016
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington., NJ

Present: Lora Jones, Maeve Pambianchi, Jim Davidson, Alan Rigoletto, Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Susan Oldroyd, Robb Sussna

Absent: Carol Cronheim

Executive Director: Carrie Fellows

O.P.M.A.

At 9:36 a.m. Chair Jones declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Director Fellows asked if the commissioners had read over the minutes again as a revised portion of the minutes went out in regards to the Stephanie Stevens Grant. Language should have described a question about the policy, not an addition to the policy.

APPROVAL OF April 28th, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES

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

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Jones wanted to take a moment recognize Director Fellows on her efforts and push through all the deadlines and meet grant requirements for the Commission.

Essay Awards: Chair Jones reported that once again the Freeholder Board really enjoyed the Junior Historian Awards. Commissioners Sherblom and Maher were also present for the ceremony. The Historic Courthouse was filled to the brim with people. Milford Borough posted its essay winners' work on their Facebook page, and Califon Public School made an all-school announcement congratulating their winners. The winning essay was from High Bridge Elementary School's Liam Bolger, on "Union Forge". The 2nd place award was a tie, Readington Township- Holland Brook School's Kiera Spring, for "Hay Press Cemetery" and Tewksbury Elementary School's Sam Dillard, for "Fairmount United Methodist Church". Commissioner Sherblom wanted to clarify that in the "Union Forge" essay that the Iron Act of 1750 did not suppress production of pig iron or other raw materials but colonial production of manufactured goods like nails produced at slitting mills. In all, this was a good essay to have been chosen to win this year.

wanted to clarify that in the "Union Forge" essay the trade was not suppressed, but promoted, but in all a good essay to have been chosen to win this year.

Speakers: Chair Jones reported that we are unlikely to use the Horizon Speakers Bureau again.

Watercolors for the Courthouse: Chair Jones reported that the Commission offices will have new watercolors provided by Joanne Bodnar and Aida Birrittieri of the Hunterdon Watercolor Society, which will replace Commissioner Sussna's artwork.

New Stephanie Stevens book: Chair Jones reported that one last photo has come in. Executive Fellows will look over the book and make adjustments if needed in the text.

Frank Curcio's Book Draft: Lora has been working closely with Frank's son on a chapter that wasn't working well. Chris Curcio and Lora agreed to eliminate the chapter.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NJ State History Fair: Director Fellows reported that she attempted to bring additional attention to the table by wearing period clothing. Next year a brochure about the Commission and promotional event materials would be beneficial.

Grants

NJ Historical Commission – Director Fellows reported that the grant is due June 1st. Responses to constituent surveys were sparse; few were returned. Lora followed up with some of the organizations by phone, but many organizations simply have not kept records on the type of information needed to complete the surveys. Organizations will need training both to apply for the CHPP regrant, and on collecting and tracking the types of data the program demands. Director Fellows followed up that if our re-granting funds are approved we should know something by July/August.

Special Projects Grant Awards –

The Special Projects letters will go out this week some time. Letters will indicate that they are contingent on the Board's approval of the 2016 budget.

Open Space/HP Grant Review –

Director Fellows reported no new date as of yet for the reviews. Staff, Bill Millette will notify us when a date has been established.

Projects - The gallery lighting project for the Courthouse has begun, but stalled waiting for additional needed parts to come in and the contractor to complete the project. As of this week, the lighting is still on back order. Director Fellows reported that she and Annabelle Radcliffe Trenner, a well-regarded historic preservation architect, along with Frank Bell, County Architect, looked at the condition of the historic Courthouse for recommendations for treatment on various issues, but those that affect the Commission in particular include storm windows, security for exhibit areas and gallery lighting. Project funding will be sought through the 2017 Capital budget and the Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Commissioner Maher asked about the security, Director Fellows said that it would be for the protection of objects on loan to us.

OPRA Request: A request had come in for the "Draft Marker Policy". The Commission will seek qualified individuals to serve on the Marker Review Committee on an "as needed" basis. County Counsel was asked to review the response to the OPRA request.

III. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Hunterdon County Community Day (Chamber Program): Only a few organizations had registered through the Commission to participate; it's a difficult time of year for non-profits to find volunteers. Roxy Ballet is expected to perform, and East Amwell Historical Society will be present. It is on June 4th from 12 to 6pm.

Student Art Exhibit: Commissioner Oldroyd reported that she had spoken with the Hunterdon Art Museum's (HAM) Director, who will put an article in the HAM newsletter about our mutual program efforts. Commissioner Oldroyd asked if we could have each of the commissioners go to each one of the HAM student shows and pick 5 pieces to be present at our (possibly) 2 main shows held by the Commission. It would showcase the best that the program has to offer. **Commissioner Davidson made a motion to accept this, Commissioner Sherblom 2nd. Opposed: Commissioner Sussna. Motion Carried.**

World Music Program: Commissioner Rigoletto reported that the program website is about to go live. Contracts for the performers are going out. The set up for the Vought House Auction musician will be changed; unfortunately there is a timing issue for the performer. Franklin Theatre group will do the backdrops for the stage. Director Fellows said that she would see if we can set up an account (through Purchasing) at Lowes or Home Depot so that we can get the needed supplies for the sets. Commissioner Maher asked about T-shirts for the festival, Director Fellows said that there was no money in the budget for that this year, but something to think about for 2016. The next committee meeting is on June 13.

History & Preservation/ Historic Markers:

Commissioner Davidson reported that the County re-set up a marker that had been knocked down by a lawn mower. Chair Jones reported that a marker at schoolhouse in Quakertown needs to be moved so a tree may be planted in that spot. Commissioner Davidson and Chair Jones will coordinate for a solution. Commissioner Oldroyd asked why the Columbia Trail does not have a historical marker. The trail has the historic Train wreck, Hobo Hill, Dairy Farm and the Peach Factory. Discussion that the site may be more suitable for an interpretive panel.

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davidson announced that the East Amwell Historical Society received a \$10,000.00 grant from the new Northfield Bank branch in the town of Ringoes. The Clausen House project will begin again this summer with \$150,000.00 to continue work.

Commissioner Oldroyd asked if there was any interest in a historical children's book being published. After discussion about possible plots, she will look into the publications policy and go from there.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

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

Historic Site Inventory: Chair Jones reported that there was nothing new at this time. She reported that Patty Liedner from GIS has been inundated with other work, and is unsure when she is going to be able to pick up the project again. Alexandria Township turned in photos and information. Lambertville, Readington and East Amwell still have not.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE:

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Jones moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Holcombe-Pena*