

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission  
MINUTES  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
9:30 a.m., Thursday Feb. 23, 2017  
Historic County Court House, 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ

**Present:** Gayle Maher, Alan Rigoletto, Don Sherblom, Susan Oldroyd, James Davidson, Robert Sussna, Executive Director: Carrie Fellows; Frank Bell County Architect, Staff: Nancy Hanna

**Absent:** Maeve Pambianchi

**O.P.M.A.**

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

**I. APPROVAL OF Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MONTHLY MINUTES**

Minutes were accepted as corrected. Moved: Cmr. Sherblom Seconded: Cmr. Rigoletto; motion carried.

**II. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Court Street Park Gazebo project**

County Architect Frank Bell presented an update on the status of planned repairs to the gazebo in Court Street Park. He met with the Flemington Borough Historic Commission which recommended installing a stainless-steel mesh product behind the railing for safety. Mr. Bell confirmed that the current rail height is 36". After discussion the Commission recommended a 36" high railing with square balusters (placed close enough together so a child could not fall through), a contoured railing to discourage sitting, executed in cedar, and a composite material for the deck. It was agreed if the balusters were placed appropriately the wire mesh would not be needed. The Commission recommended all cedar parts be stained with extra-pigmented white stain to simulate paint but provide better adhesion.

**Young Artists Showcase**

Staff and Commissioners received informal communication from Hunterdon Art Museum (HAM) staff regarding procedural difficulties in securing parental permissions, etc. for planned Commission shows of student artwork. After discussion, members reached a consensus that the Commission should simply continue to empower the program, which is funded through a Special Project grant, rather than try to hold its own exhibition. All agreed to attend the opening receptions, introduce themselves, and show support that way. Director Fellows encouraged those attending receptions to photograph work (without students in images) so she can post them on the Facebook page.

**Other Art Show topics**

Cmr. Sussna mentioned he wished to show a colleague's work in the offices. He also expressed his interest in having the Commission host an art show as it did years ago at Prallsville Mills. Chair Maher requested that he research to determine the extent of shows offered in the County. Director Fellows expressed a concern about staff resources.

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Grants**

- NJ State Council on the Arts: The Board of Chosen Freeholders (BOCF) passed a resolution approving the recommendations for Local Arts Program (LAP) regrant awards. Award letters are in process.
- NJ Historical Commission: The BOCF passed a resolution approving the recommendations for Round One County History Partnership Program (CHPP) awards. Award letters are in process. A resolution accepting the review panel's Round Two recommendation, to award Lambertville Historical Society \$6,100 was moved by Cmr. Oldroyd, seconded by Cmr. Davidson; motion carried. NJ Historical Commission staff advised Director Fellows not to offer a third round for Warren County applicants. They will seek permission for her to use those funds to provide professional development programs to constituents.

**Jazz Festival**

There is uncertainty regarding which local organization is hosting the program.

**Request for Letter of Support**

The Hunterdon Art Tour (THAT) requested a letter in support of their 2018 grant application to Sustainable New Jersey for \$20,000. Commissioners agreed to grant the request.

## Essay Contest

We have about 6 classes, a total of 110 students registered to date.

## Poetry Out Loud

Regional 4 finals (Hunterdon, Morris, Warren, Sussex) were postponed by snow until Feb. 27. Director Fellows and Lora Jones will attend to support Hunterdon finalists.

## Crossroads of the American Revolution co-sponsored program "The Art of Period Dress"

Keynote speaker Mark Hutter received permission from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to participate. We have submitted a request to the BOCF to hold the program in the Historic Courthouse and charge a registration fee to offset lunch and speaker expenses. Eliza West (Fort Ticonderog) and Sara Woodyard (Colonial Williamsburg) have also agreed to participate. The goal is to begin preparing Hunterdon and Crossroads Heritage Partner organizations for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.

## May Meeting

The May meeting will be rescheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am.

## C&H 2016 Annual Report

Director Fellows provided each of the Commissioners present a copy of the annual report prepared for Dept. Director Dziamara.

## IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

World Music Day – Cmr. Rigoletto reported setting a meeting with Michael Newman; he is still trying to set a meeting with Mark Roxey. Red Baraat is requesting a 50% deposit for their performance. The next committee meeting will be on Tues. March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

## V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS

No report at this time.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Cmr. Davidson gave an update on East Amwell Historical Society's Clausen House rehabilitation, and upcoming programs. He also suggested we use the Historic Courthouse to exhibit some pictures from the Lindbergh trial and a speaking program in conjunction.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Maher asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved: Davidson; Seconded: Sherblom; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hanna