

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday June 17, 2020
Hunterdon County Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822
THIS MEETING HELD TELEPHONICALLY

Dial in number: 720-399-1558 or 877-658-5107

Passcode: 438836

Present: Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Haeree Park, Nikki Shepardson, Maeve Pambianchi Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Analyst Trainee, Lauren Lembo, Clerk Nancy Hanna, Public David Overaker, Lebanon Twp. Historian Committee.

O.P.M.A. At 4:30 pm, Chair Maher declared the meeting open and properly advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. APPROVAL OF April 29, 2020 and May 20, 2020 MINUTES:

April Minutes approved as corrected, Moved Cmr. Sherblom, Second Cmr. Park. All in favor. Approval for May 20 Minutes: Moved Cmr. Park, Second Cmr. Sherblom. All in favor.

II. Public Comment: Mr. David Overaker (Lebanon Twp. Historians Committee)

Mr. Overaker requested assistance to find an interested party to acquire the historic house owned by NJ Board of Education and situated on Voorhees HS property. NJ State Historic Preservation Office granted a certificate of eligibility. The Board of Education will not allow it to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places but will consider/ may be receptive to its sale. The Township is not willing to acquire it and accept responsibility for needed rehabilitation/ maintenance.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID- 19 Remote Operations: The County continues to work remotely, and in the office on a rotating schedule. Staff are coordinating with County Architect Frank Bell to create a cleaning/ dormancy protocol for the Historic Courthouse. At present the County is not accepting outside requests for use, but for those organizations who may be planning programs, future facility use requests must include a copy of a safety plan/protocol for COVID compliance under current Executive Orders, to be reviewed by the Department of Health.

NJ State Council on the Arts LAP Grant, Addendum: The Board of Chosen Freeholders approved submission of a contract addendum for \$9,400 in CARES Act funding to be re-granted to qualified organizations for general operating support.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) - CHPP Grant, and NJ 250: Notification of CARES Act Funding grants, available through NJ Council on Humanities was sent to our constituents.

NJHC Interim Report is due at the end of the month.

The NJ 250 scholar summit is 6/23; The next NJ 250 update meeting is 7/15. Director Fellows has been appointed to the NJ250 Advisory Council.

County Special Projects Grants:

Staff have been working on the grant panel meeting and everything that leads up to it. The meeting will be held telephonically, Thursday, June 25 at 9:30am.

NJ Historic Trust Grant (NJHT): The Board of Chosen Freeholders voted the contract modification to continue with Clark Caton Hintz as the firm directing the historic preservation work on the Historic Courthouse complex. Frank Bell is the lead.

Open Space/Historic Preservation Grants - Grant applications were distributed to the review committee. Possible virtual meeting days: 6/23; 6/30; 7/9; 7/10

IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Committee: Cmr. Sherblom sent a general email seeking authors to contribute work for the web pages, reaching out to several NJ historians, as well as non-profit organizations. He anticipates that seven web pages will be ready by October. Cmr. Shepardson suggested the outreach be reformatted for a possible internship program. Seven (7) markers should be rewritten and considered for L:\Agendas & Minutes\MINUTES\Minutes 2020\Approved Minutes word\CH Minutes 06_17_2020 Approved.docx

relocation: Solitude House, Christopher Vought house, Jones Tavern, John Hart's Cave, Flemington Raid, Coronet Geary Trail, Ringoes.

History Essay Contest: has been postponed.

Guest Speakers: Keeping Jim Higgins on the list as a potential speaker for now.

Website: Cmr. Shepardson suggested updating the C&H website with new historical information and news. Executive Director Fellows commented that the IT department is overloaded due to the pandemic.

Document Storage: Cmr. Sherblom spoke to Dennis Bertland regarding making collections of architectural and project reports more locally accessible. At some point, we will meet with the Historical Society to discuss how best to accomplish this.

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS – no report

VI. OLD BUSINESS –no report

VII. NEW BUSINESS – no report

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- ALHFAM is celebrating their 50th anniversary year. The annual conference was going to be held in Boston but was canceled due to COVID-19 and being held virtually. Executive Director Fellows and Analyst Trainee Lembo registered for several virtual sessions.
- Vice Chair Cronheim attended the virtual meeting for the Future of Arts in NJ and will send the link for the Commissioners.
- The 30th Anniversary of the ADA - we will look at how to celebrate this, including considering ways to make things available to all audiences. Executive Director Fellows stated that our ADA Plan needs to be updated this year for the NJ State Council on the Arts.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Maher requested a motion to adjourn; Moved: Cmr. Shepardson, Second: Cmr. Pambianchi. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: July 29, 2020, 4:30pm