



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 p.m., Wednesday July 26, 2023

This meeting was held in person at the Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

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

Attendance: Commissioners: Chair, Carol Cronheim, Vice Chair, Gayle Maher, Donald Sherblom, Robin Lapidus, Erin Delgado, Daniel Shea, Nikki Shepardson,
Staff: Executive Director Natalie Zaman, Clerk Nancy Hanna, Economic Development Director Marc Saluk;
Absent: Planning Director Frank Bell

- I. Marc Saluk gave a detailed update about the Explore Hunterdon website, the Route 579 Trail, and the growing interest of tourism in Hunterdon County. Social Media has been effective in marketing the County to surrounding states.
- II. **Approval of June 28, 2023, Minutes**
Motion to approve the June 28, 2023, minutes made by Dan Shea, seconded by Erin Delgado. All in favor.
- III. **County Commissioner Update and Comments**
N/A
- IV. **Chair's Report:** Chair Cronheim met with a new potential Commissioner; a meeting with staff and Vice Chair Maher will be scheduled sometime in August.
- V. **Grants**
Natalie Zaman reported:
NJ Council on the Humanities:
 - Our contract is signed, and we are awaiting payment.
 - The Request for Proposals is being finalized and will be posted in early September.
 - Natalie asked the Commission to submit potential candidates for this work.
 - The Request for Proposals will be marketed through the New Jersey Historical Commission, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and various historical societies, colleges, and universities.

Local Arts Program (LAP) Grant.

2023 Grant:

- Our Interim Conversation with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts took place on July 10, 2023. Also in attendance were Chair Cronheim and Planning Director Frank Bell.

2024 Grant

- The application and guidelines for the 2024 grant are live.
- The last technical assistance workshop will take place on August 16, 2023, at the main branch of the Hunterdon County Library.

County History Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant

2024 Grant

- The application and guidelines for the 2024 grant are live.

2023 HCC&HC Meeting Dates

Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 26, May 24, Jun 28, Jul 26, Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 29
(The HCC&HC does not meet in August and December)



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- The last technical assistance workshop will take place on August 16, 2023, on Zoom.

Special Project (SP) Grant

2023 Grant

- The United Way will present its Summer Fiesta on July 29, 2023. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

NEA Grant:

- We submitted our application for a grant for arts projects on July 17, 2023. Awards will be announced in April 2024. This grant award will be matched with funds from the 2024 Special Project grant allotment as well as funds from the Cultural & Heritage operating budget. We proposed to make 6 grants of \$10,000 each for projects that focus on the 250th.

VI. Commission Programs & Projects

• **HuntHistory.org and Markers:**

- The commission suggested changes to the text of the Bonnell's Tavern marker; edits to the marker are pending.
- Vice Chair Maher met with the Mayor and Borough Administrator of High Bridge regarding the Union Forge marker. The proposed location is on a private property; permission is being sought.

- **HuntArt.org:** Staff is in the process of getting quotes for to build the website; target launch is October 2023.

• **Technical Assistance:**

- Our next workshop will be Marketing and Digital Media with Michael Pilla, September 20, 2023
- Per the request of our nonprofit organizations, we have scheduled an additional workshop covering fundraising. Allison Trimarco will lead this workshop on September 27, 2023. Once finalized, the details will be posted on the County website.

• **Teen Arts:**

- For the 2023 Festival, the Hunterdon Art Museum will be doing a Teen Arts Coffee House Creative Writing Session which will take place this fall.
- Staff is preparing a participation form to distribute to County schools to determine the potential number of students attending the 2024 Festival. Forms will be distributed shortly after Labor Day.
- Natalie asked for Commissioners to participate in at Teen Arts subcommittee to assist with organization.

• **Dancing on the Green:**

- Dancing on the Green will take place on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from about 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The rain date is October 14, 2023.
- Micro performances will take place throughout this period. Staff has reached out to the Hunterdon Art Museum to arrange for visual artists to be on site while the performances are occurring.
- Marketing for Dancing on the Green will start after Labor Day; Two logos were created and shared.

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VII. **Old Business:** N/A

VIII. **New Business** N/A

IX. **Announcements & Correspondence:**

- Donald Sherblom announced that the Vought House received a \$12,214 grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission for archeology; during restoration, items were found under the floorboards which may be related to enslaved people who lived in the house. He also informed the Commission that David Overaker is the new President of the 1759 Vought House.
- Robin Lapidus shared that an article on the Jacob Francis event was published on NJ.com, the Star Ledger and on the cover of Trenton Times. Going forward, an event honoring Jacob Francis will take place annually, on or near Juneteenth.
- The Central Jersey Jazz Festival will take place in Flemington on September 9, 2023.
- Sip and Stroll on Stangl, which takes place on the third Thursday of each month, was covered in an article in the Hunterdon Observer.
- **The Cultural & Heritage Commission also received:**
 - A flyer for the United Way Summer Fiesta event on July 29, 2023; the event will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Flyers for the Hunterdon County Library's summer programs.

I. **Public Comment:** N/A

II. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Cronheim requested a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Daniel Shea, seconded by Nikki Shepardson. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: September 27, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in person

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