



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 p.m., Wednesday September 27, 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., Vice Chair Maher 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, Clinton Ambs, Robin Lapidus, Daniel Shea, Donald Sherblom, Nikki Shepardson; Absent: Erin Delgado
Staff: Executive Director Natalie Zaman, Senior Clerk Nancy Hanna, Planning Director Frank Bell

I. **Approval of July 26, 2023, Minutes**

Motion to approve the July 26, 2023, minutes made by Daniel Shea, seconded by Clinton Ambs. All in favor.

II. **County Commissioner Update and Comments**

N/A

III. Chair's Report: Chair Cronheim, Vice Chair Maher, and Natalie Zaman met in August with Vincent Metallo to discuss his interest in joining the Cultural & Heritage Commission; all agree that he would be an excellent asset. Motion to recommend Vincent Metallo to the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission made by Daniel Shea, seconded by Robin Lapidus. All in favor.

IV. **Grants**

Natalie Zaman reported:

Local Arts Program Grant

2023 Grant:

- Final Report forms will be made available to re-grantees next month.
- In 2023 the Commission supported initiatives through Parks, the Library, and the Senior Center. To date, we received the following attendance numbers: Music Under the Stars served 14,500 people with 32 artists engaged; The Library's Summer Music Series served 1,597 people with 54 artists engaged.

2024 Grant

- 2024 Local Arts Program grant applications were due on September 15, 2023; the Commission received 15 applications totaling \$341,550, a 50% increase in the number of applicants from the last several years.
- The 2024 Local Arts Program grant panel will meet on November 3, 2023.

County History Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant

2023 Grant:

- Final Report forms will be made available to re-grantees next month.

2024 Grant

- 2024 County History Partnership Program grant applications were due on September 15, 2023; the Commission received 6 applications totaling \$64,091.63. The New Jersey Historical Commission dictates that we regrant \$40,000 of our \$45,000 award.
- The 2024 County History Partnership Program grant panel will meet on November 2, 2023.
- 2024 Grant Panel will meet November 2, 2023.
- County Architect Frank Bell added that organizations should be encouraged to reach out to their municipality to inquire about the availability of Open Space funds to support their work.

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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- Daniel Shea suggested the hosting of an open house for County organizations and municipalities to grow awareness of available grant opportunities in the County.

2024 Creative Aging Initiative Grant

- The New Jersey State Council on the Arts released their Creative Aging Initiative Grant at the end of July. This \$10K grant supports the engagement of teaching artists for multiple arts education sessions for older adults.
- The Commission applied for this grant in partnership with the Library and Senior Center. If awarded, funds will be utilized to engage Roxey Ballet to offer two 8-week Creative Movement classes at the main branch of the Hunterdon County Library. Classes will take place in the main room that is looped for auditory assistance. The program will also include orientation and sessions in the library's new Marketplace.
- Awards for this grant will be announced in December.

Historic Preservation Grant

- The Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission assists the Planning Department with the County's bricks and mortar Historic Preservation grant. In 2023, 8 requests totaling \$566,590 were received.
- The Historic Preservation Grant subcommittee met on September 14, 2023, to discuss the requests. Queries were made and sent to applicants. Once all responses have been received, the subcommittee will meet again to finalize recommendations.

V. Commission Programs & Projects

- **HuntHistory.org:**
 - The Request for Proposals for the Commission's HuntHistory.org consultant was approved at the Board of County Commissioners' meeting on September 5, 2023. It will be live through October 4, 2023.
- **HuntArt.org:**
 - Website build has commenced. The first iteration should be ready to view in October. Staff is exploring marketing opportunities including tote bags and car magnets.
- **Technical Assistance:**
 - We held technical assistance workshops on Marketing and Digital Media on September 20th with Michale Pilla and on September 27th, with Allison Trimarco. Both were well attended.
 - Will send out poll in December to see what our organizations want and need to determine next year's workshops.
- **Teen Arts:**
 - Participation forms sent out to schools earlier this month- this will gauge how many students will attend.
 - They are due back November 3rd- after that, registration forms will be posted.
- **Dancing on the Green:**
 - Dress rehearsal will take place at Old York Cellars on October 6, 2023, from 2:00 p. m. to 5:30p.m.
 - Continuous performances will take place on October 7, 2023, between 12:30p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
 - Our rain date is October 14, 2023.

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- Wine-artist Mark Schreiber will be painting on site. He will create a painting that will be auctioned off to benefit the Roxey Ballet. Mark is donating his time and artwork.
- We also expecting Hunterdon Art Museum to participate with visual art.

VI. Old Business: N/A

VII. New Business N/A

VIII. Announcements & Correspondence:

- Natalie Zaman received a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Delaware and Raritan Canal Park's 50th anniversary. Park administration is seeking municipalities and organizations to celebrate this milestone by offering themed programs in 2024 and highlight the valuable natural and historic resources of the Delaware Raritan State Park. Initial ideas from the Commission include partnering with river towns to bring the Dancing on the Green Program to those areas. Robin Lapidus suggested a temporary laser-light art installation to illuminate the canal.
- The Cultural Access Network and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts requires that all grantees submit an updated ADA plan every three years; the Commission's updated ADA plan is due to the Access Network on January 15, 2024. Natalie Zaman and Nancy Hanna will attend the technical assistance workshop for this project on October 3, 2023.
- Due to dangerous weather conditions, the Commission-sponsored event, Salsa Night has been rescheduled for October 7, 2023, and will start at 4:00 p.m.
- Donald Sherblom shared that he will be moderating the panel, Unfinished Revolution: New Perspectives on the American Revolution in New Jersey at the New Jersey History Conference on November 17, 2023.
- Donald Sherblom also reported that the Vought House received a \$12,790 grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to support archeology and restoration of the attic floor. And a \$13,650 grant from the Preserve New Jersey historic Preservation Grant Fund to support for archeological work under the 18th century kitchen floor.
- The next 250th meeting will be held at the main branch of the Hunterdon County Library on Route 12 on October 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- Vice Chair Maher attended Grounds for Art in High Bridge. She reported that it was very well attended and will potentially be an annual event.
- Daniel Shea announced that Paul Muir retired as the Executive Director of the Red Mill. The Red Mill is currently seeking a new Executive Director.
- **The Cultural & Heritage Commission also received:**
 - The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey's newsletter.
 - Correspondence from the New Jersey Historical Commission promoting the 2023 New Jersey History Conference which will take place on November 17, 2023, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - A copy of the New Jersey State Council of the Arts' 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.
 - A postcard promoting the "Color My World" show at the Barron Arts Center taking place October 4th through 25th, 2023.
 - A postcard promoting an Art Party Auction at the Hunterdon Art Museum taking place on October 27, 2023.

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- A postcard promoting the 40th Annual Lambertville House Tour on taking place on October 22nd, 2023.

I. Public Comment: N/A

II. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Cronheim motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Daniel Shea. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hanna

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

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