

**Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday Feb 26, 2020**  
**Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822**

**Present:** Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Haeree Park, Nikki Shepardson, guest Rikki N. Massand (TAPInto). Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Clerk Nancy Hanna.

**Absent/ Excused:** Maeve Pambianchi.

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

**I. APPROVAL OF Jan 22, 2019 MINUTES:**

Acting Chair Maher requested approval of the Jan 22, 2019 minutes; Cmr. Park requested under announcements the minutes be corrected to read "Director of the NJ Division of Disability Services announced..." Minutes were approved as corrected. Moved: Cmr. Sherblom Second: Cmr. Park, all in favor.

Acting Chair Maher introduced Guest Rikki Massand of TAPInto Flemington/Raritan to the Commissioners.

**II. Public Comment:**

Mr. Massand provided a brief bio; an independent journalist, he is also Chairman of the Montgomery Twp Historical Commission. He offered to highlight our program on 3/15 together with another on women suffragists in Raritan Twp. on 3/19. He is eager to make the community aware of arts and history programs happening locally.

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

NJ State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) Local Arts Program (LAP) Grant

- 2019 Final Report corrections submitted.
- 2019 Final Re grantee payments in process.
- 2020 Grant Agreement submitted.
- 2020 Re grant recommendations approved at the 2/18 BOCF meeting.
- Preparing Re grantee contracts.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) County History Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant:

- 2019 Final Report submitted
- 2019 Final Re grantee payments in process.
- 2020 Grant agreement submitted for the BOCF approval at the 3/3 meeting.

County Special Projects Grants: .

- Forms posted on website & sent to 2019 applicants /re grantees.
- Due date: Monday, March 30, 2020, 3pm.

NJ Historic Trust Grant (NJHT):

- The contract is complete, authorized by the BOCF on 2/18, and was submitted by County Architect Frank Bell (due March 27)
- \$747,000 for Phase One of a two-phase project for restoration and upgrades to the historic courthouse. There is a 1:1 required match, which is proposed from the HC Historic Trust Fund for county projects.
- Director Fellows and County Architect Bell attended a workshop on administering the grant/ project.
- 2020 Operating Expense Budgets: submitted.

Director Fellows read an email from a member of the public who expressed some concerns about the grant funding (described in the email as "forced donations") for nonprofits. Funding for CHPP and LAP grants comes from NJ Hotel/Motel Occupancy Fee revenues. Ms. Fellows will reach out to Mr. Davis and address it with him.

**IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS**

Marker Committee: Cmr. Sherblom discussed the online marker project's Google map component; asked Mr. Montgomery if the students could create QR codes for the sign riders. Chair Maher suggested that we go back to basics. Public meeting aspect is on hold until additional staff are on board. Cmr. Shepardson inquired about any program activity from RVCC; lack of staff has also put this item on hold.

History Essay Contest: We continue to send emails to the schools. Director Fellows contacted Greer Luce at the NJ Historical Commission to include it on the NJ Women Vote website; she was happy to hear the contest theme is suffrage. Cmr. Shepardson asked if we had contacted student teachers or college content developers for the Service Learning Assignment to participate in the Essay Contest. Discussion indicated there were few to no student teaching opportunities in Hunterdon.

Proclamation Commemorating the Centennial of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment: A resolution to occur at the March 3 meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders will officially represent Hunterdon County's notice of the anniversary. Cmr. Cronheim will accept the Proclamation on behalf of NJ Women Vote.

#### Guest Speakers

The Ann Gordon lecture "Memory and the New Jersey Suffragists" is set for 3/15 at 1:30 pm. Commissioners will have the same tasks as for the previous program. A fall program is being considered; possibly someone to speak about Toshiko Takaezu; i.e. someone from the Takaezu Studio, or who knew the artist.

**V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS:** Planning Services Division – working on a grant project to bring the county into conformance with the Highlands. The consultant, John Barree of Heyer Gruel & Associates, is reviewing the County's various planning documents.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS –**

Anne Morrow Lindbergh program -Speaker Susan Wallner was very happy; the program was moving with lots of discussion. Nominating Committee

- Cmr. Cronheim presented Gayle Maher as a candidate for Chair and opened nominations to the floor (no additional nominations). Nominations closed. Moved: Cmr Cronheim Second: Cmr. Sherblom. All in favor.
- Cmr. Cronheim shared that Chair Maher had requested she serve as Vice Chair.
- Chair Maher presented Cmr Cronheim as a candidate for Vice Chair and opened nominations to the floor (no additional nominations). Nominations closed. Moved: Cmr. Shepardson. Second Cmr.Park. All in favor.
- There are currently 3 open positions. The committee continues to seek qualified candidates. Director Fellows will meet with the officers/nominating committee to discuss candidates put forward.

#### Storage of Documents/ Manuscripts/ Plans

Dave Harding is the new Director of the Hunterdon Historical Society, Director Fellows will arrange a meeting.

Creative Assets Inventory – Director Fellows reached out to IT Department, it is on the home page 'slider.'

Strategic Plan - Chair Maher stated that we are accomplishing our goals: making ourselves visible through lectures, working on finding and engaging new Commissioners.

Goal: schedule Mr. Bell County Architect, Eco. Dev. Saluk, or GIS Div Head Leidner to give us an update on their activities around/related to C&H programs.

#### **VII NEW BUSINESS – N/A**

#### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

- Cmr. Shepardson announced she will become Chair of the History Department at Rider University; the Commission congratulated her.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

**Next meeting: March 25, 2020, 4:30pm**