

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES Approved as Corrected
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday May 20, 2020
This Meeting held telephonically
Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

PRESENT: Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Haeree Park. Guest: GIS Division Head Patricia Leidner
Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Clerk Nancy Hanna.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Nikki Shepardson, Maeve Pambianchi

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 MINUTES:

No quorum, so minutes will be held until the June 20 meeting for vote. A correction regarding who moved for adjournment on 4/29 was noted.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

III. MARKER COMMITTEE Chair Maher took the agenda out of order as GIS Division Head Patricia Leidner is present. Cmr. Sherblom described the subcommittee meeting held on 5/15. His expertise is in the content; if the Computer Academy students can build the website, GIS will build the map, and we solve geolocation for the QR codes, then we'll have a situation for people to search for a marker site using a computer OR using the code to locate their position with their phones at a site. Communication with the Computer Academy continues to be challenging. Chair Maher wasn't able to join the subcommittee meeting but expressed concern that the Commission be cautious not to duplicate efforts of other individuals or organizations with similar geolocation websites. Cmr. Sherblom said the content would be approximately 2 pages, pictures, text, vetted and footnoted, not just legends and myths. Our content will be different from what others have out there. Ms. Leidner stated that links to other external website may be made, embedded the text itself (Vought House to Jones Tavern for example, or all markers in Annandale Village); the application would also allow us to create a route for themed groups of markers, walking tours, etc. Cmr. Sherblom said we could start with the Revolutionary War markers.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID-19 Remote Operations:

We continue to work remotely, with Nancy in the office for 3 days/week. We will continue to rotate staff when our new Analyst Trainee begins on June 1. Director Fellows is working with Frank Bell, County Architect, to determine the best way to protect staff throughout the Department from virus transmission when staff returns to the office. A variety of measures are being implemented, each division is unique. For the historic courthouse, increased security measures are in place, and an intercom may be installed.

NJ State Council on the Arts

CARES Act funding is available and was announced 5/19; Vice Chair Cronheim attended the virtual meeting. 21 County Art Agencies are eligible for non- matching grant of \$9,400.

Local Arts Program (LAP) – Interim payments were released early as COVID relief. Our regrantees' first payments were delayed this year, but meant we were able to combine first and interim payments together on one purchase order.

Director Fellows informed the Commissioners that one re-grantee turned down the grant. In the past the Commission has distributed the amount either equally or by percentages as it was voted by the Commissioners.

County Special Projects Grants:

The County grants are also running behind due to COVID, but Director Fellows received confirmation that the funding is included in the approved County budget.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC)

Neither Director Fellows nor Vice Chair Cronheim has heard if CARES Act funding will be available through the NJHC.

NJ Historic Trust Grant (NJHT):

Things are moving ahead - the contract was submitted last month and we anticipate work to begin in the fall.
Open Space/Historic Preservation Grants
Are ready for review. Director Fellows spoke with Bill Millette, Open Space Coordinator, they are straightforward.

2020 Budget – was accepted May 19, 2020.

V. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Program - the public meeting is on hold for now, could be held telephonically or via web app

Essay Contest: has been postponed

Guest Speakers we have ideas on how we might have web presentations, we should submit names until the time comes.
Cmr. Shepardson suggested a possible speaker - Jim Higgins - at a previous meeting and we are keeping him in mind.

VI. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS N/A

VII. OLD BUSINESS –N/A

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – N/A

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE - N/A

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: June 17, 2020, 4:30pm