

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday October 28, 2020
Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse, 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822
THIS MEETING HELD TELEPHONICALLY

Dial in number: 720-399-1558 or 877-658-5107
Passcode: 438836

Present: Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Haeree Park, Nikki Shepardson, Maeve Pambianchi, Guest Eco. Dev. Director, Marc Saluk, Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Analyst Trainee Lauren Lembo, Clerk Nancy Hanna.

Absent: Chair Maher.

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

I. APPROVAL OF September 30 meeting Moved: Vice Chair Cronheim, Second: Cmr. Park. All in favor.

II. Guest Presenter: Hunterdon County Economic Development Director Marc Saluk - detailed various projects including the Rte. 579 Trail, grants awarded to small businesses to keep them sustained during the pandemic, and the Hunterdon Main Streets initiative to boost holiday merchants. Milford Park Project has a contract in place to purchase land to enable the first county waterfront park. Economic Development Grants will continue to be given through 2021 and will boost the economy in Hunterdon County. Vice Chair Cronheim inquired about Raritan Township real estate, and Mr. Saluk responded that his familiarity is in commercial development and business in the county has been good. Local real estate group RB3 recruited for analysis of major commercial properties in Hunterdon.

III. Chair Report: Vice Chair Cronheim attended virtually the NJSCA meeting on 10/27 indicating they increased the grant funding of the arts an extra \$3 million this year. Also, ArtPride NJ had a big meeting a week ago, Hank Willis Thomas's For Freedoms collective placed artist-created billboards centered on social justice throughout the U.S.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID- 19 Remote Operations: The County continues to work remotely, and in the office on a rotating schedule. The Historic Courtroom and workshop room are being used heavily by the County, and by the Board of Elections for people who watch the ballots. Potential challenges through Nov. 17th with 25% capacity, per the Executive Order from Governor Murphy.

NJ State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) LAP Grant and the CARES Act funding: We received via email a notification that grant funding for FY2021 has been increased to \$71,464. There will also be some changes to the grant application process, including the elimination of the interim report. However, we will still ask re-grantees to submit an interim report to us. As per last meeting, the Board of Chosen Freeholders approved the CARES Act funding awards for two re-grantees, who will be notified soon.

NJ Historical Commission (NJHC) - CHPP Grant, and NJ 250: We received via email a notification of an increase to the grant funding for CHPP FY2021. The NJ250 meeting was on 10/14, more information is on the Crossroads of the American Revolution website. Executive Director Fellows was able to attend a portion of the advisory council meeting on 10/22, which was productive with good recommendations for 2026 programming.

County Special Projects Grants: Preparing documents for FY2021, including a virtual workshop and updated application (total award amount pending Board of Chosen Freeholders approved budget).

NJ Historic Trust Grant (NJHT): County Architect Frank Bell, Lauren Lembo, and Carrie Fellows met virtually with staff from Clarke Caton Hintz (CCH) to give recommendations for security of the first-floor suite and the Historic Courthouse, and to select a hanging lighting system on the first floor.

Open Space/Historic Preservation Grants – Planning, GIS, and our consultant had a meeting on the county Master Plan, which needs updating. It will need to be posted on the county website and be approved and accepted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Executive Director Fellows is focusing on the Historic Preservation plan since it is the oldest portion of the master plan (from 1979), and the last update was from the commissioners in 2000.

Marc Saluk and Carrie Fellows visited Bonnell Tavern - the owner (Hank Bonnell) has been working on rehabilitating the structure (i.e. stripping and repainting), with the goal of establishing a brewery that specializes in 18th-century recipes. Mr. Bonnell has been meeting with local stakeholders for ideas, working with the Mayor and the Town of Clinton to have history education elements, as a possible venue space for meetings/gatherings to sustain the history portion.

A resolution for the Board of Chosen Freeholders was placed on the agenda, requesting to light the Historic Courthouse with white, yellow, and purple lights for the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment and in celebration of women's suffrage.

C:\Users\nhanna\AppData\Local\Temp\NitroPDF\nitroSession8308\C&H Minutes 10_28_2020_Approved_23577A1D.docx

IV. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Committee: Executive Director Fellows sent a list of the markers that were approved and/or need to re-approve to the Commissioners, on which the Commissioners agreed and revisited/approved three of the markers from the previous meeting. Cmr. Sherblom recommended that the Bonnell Tavern sign should eventually be amended due to inaccurate information; the Solitude marker has been approved moved Cmr. Pambianchi second Cmr. Shepardson all in favor; however, the Commission suggests working with High Bridge on future signage given their recent New Jersey Historic Trust award for the Solitude House. After discussion, the Vought House marker was approved: moved Vice Chair Cronheim, second Cmr. Pambianchi, and will be sent to Chair Maher for final approval. Union Forge marker approval will be on hold till next meeting.

History Essay Contest: Updating: On hold for now.

Guest Speakers: N/A

Document Storage: No news

V. FREEHOLDER UPDATES/ COMMENTS – no report

VI. OLD BUSINESS –no report

VII. NEW BUSINESS – no report

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE - Covered by Vice Chair and Executive Director report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: Dec 2, 2020, 4:30pm