

New Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting - 4:30 pm, Wednesday, April 28, 2021
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: Chair Gayle Maher, Don Sherblom, Carol Cronheim, Nikki Shepardson, Staff: Executive Director Carrie Fellows, Analyst Trainee Lauren Lembo. Guest County Architect Frank Bell.
Absent: Maeve Pambianchi, Clerk Nancy Hanna

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 March 24, 2021 MINUTES: Approved, Moved: Vice Chair Cronheim; Second: Cmr Sherblom; All in favor.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT N/A

III. Chair's Report: No report

IV. Guest Report – Frank Bell, County Architect: Hunterdon County was granted funds to rehabilitate the Historic Courthouse in a two-phase project. County Architect Frank Bell gave a detailed progress report about the restoration plans for the Historic Courthouse and the Jail.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Carrie Fellows

COVID- 19 Remote Operations: The County continues to work remotely and in the office on a rotating schedule until at least May 28th.
Highlands Conformance Petition: Started as a Planning Division project in 2017, Hunterdon is one of the first counties to participate in the Conformance process, partnering with the Highlands Council to accomplish shared goals for the protection of natural and cultural resources. The Council provides funding to assist the county to comply with conformance standards. Funding of \$100,000 is recommended to create a new historic sites inventory, given the last plan was completed in 1979. The petition hearing is scheduled for May 24.

NJ 250: Director Fellows attended the meeting virtually on April 8. Two workshops to prepare organizations for upcoming activities will be held on July 23 and July 29.

NJ Historic Trust: Covered by County Architect Frank Bell.

The Hunterdon Art Tour (THAT): Taking place the weekend of May 1 and 2. The kick-off is April 30 at the Hunterdon Art Museum. More details about participants are provided on social media and online.

VI: REGRANT REPORT – Lauren Lembo, Analyst Trainee

Local Arts Program (LAP) Grant and County History Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant: Initial regrantee payments have been issued. Hunterdon County Teen Arts programs will begin on May 1. More information can be found on the Cultural & Heritage website.

County Special Project Grants: The panelist grant review meeting will be held on May 4 for the four (4) applications received.

VII. COMMISSION PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Marker Committee & Related:

Cmr. Sherblom and the committee met to discuss the website map which will include locational points that open into linked PDF files with more information for each marker. Cmr. Sherblom will revisit the content and coordinate with Patricia Leidner, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division Head. In the future, sign riders will be added. The Bonnell Tavern marker will be removed for revision, and plans can resume to replace the Geary Trail, Jones Tavern, and Vought House historic markers.

Analyst Trainee Lembo followed up about an application that was received in March for a new marker, confirming the committee's decision to decline approval due to a lack of information and not meeting criteria.

History Essay Contest: Still on hold

VIII. COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ COMMENTS – No report

IX: OLD BUSINESS

Document Storage: On hold, pending outreach with David Harding of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Guest speaker and (ASNJ) speakers: Analyst Trainee Lembo is coordinating outreach for possible workshops, including Scott Elliott as a speaker for an ADA/Accessibility Workshop for arts and history regrantees to be held in July or August. A follow-up conversation will occur at the end of May. Workshops will be funded via the LAP grant. ArtPride NJ will also be helping to pilot a program related to audience tracking and statistics.

X. NEW BUSINESS N/A

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- Cmr. Sherblom received a letter from Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) for a project in Bethlehem Township. He will forward it to Cultural & Heritage.

XII. Open to the Public – No comments

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hanna

Next meeting: May 26, 2021 4:30pm