

**WARREN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL
CULTURAL & HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD**
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Mark Young, Karin White, and Jane Primerano

Members Absent: Richard Gardner and Randy Piazza, Sr.

Staff Present: Gina Rosseland, Kim Barnes, Commissioner Lori Ciesla, and Art Charlton

Staff Absent: Corey Tierney

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The September 17, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Rosseland has one piece of correspondence that will be discussed further during the Community Day segment later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION – Due to time constraints, it was decided to skip ahead to discuss the upcoming gala.

- **BOOK**
- **WEBSITE**
- **HISTORIC MARKERS**

BICENTENNIAL GALA (11/12/24, 6pm at David's Country Inn):

We are up to 179 tickets, which includes an estimate for the invited dignitaries. It is time to stop the sponsored advertising or just have it say that tickets are sold out. The Explore Warren Facebook booster ad needs to be stopped. Eventbrite, Facebook, WRNJ, and the county website will be updated to say that due to overwhelming demand, the gala is sold out. A waiting list will be created. Commissioner Ciesla said the Commissioners have decided to invite past freeholders to the gala and would like to honor former Speaker of the NJ State Assembly Chuck Haytaian as Warren County Citizen of the Bicentennial.

Ms. Rapisardi shared the design of the 200 packs of personalized M&M's. They will be put inside the wine glasses as favors. The step and repeat backdrop with the bicentennial logo and the county seal has been ordered. It is 8'x8' and comes with a carrying case.

A date was set for the BCHAB members to do a walk-through of David's Country Inn in advance of the gala (Mon. 10/21 at 3:00).

Mr. Charlton said a poster size 1825 map of the county was ordered (about 2'x3'). The modern map of the county will be made on foam core (size 36"x46") for the gala attendees to sign. Ms. Rosseland said she is in touch with Rutgers and the library to get a tif file of the 1825 map, so we have an actual file in case they need to order one in the future.

As guests check in upon arrival, they will be told what table they are seated at. There will be a seating chart/table map by the county maps. After the cocktail hour, once all guests are seated, Commissioner Ciesla will welcome everyone and identify the dignitaries in the room. Once everyone has been to the buffet and is eating, the classic ballroom dancers will demonstrate dances. Awards will follow, along with background information about the bicentennial. Then the awards for the costume contest will be presented. The BCHAB members will be the judges. Prizes are champagne bottles filled with the personalized M&M's (5 ordered). The dance floor will then open and the DJ will play Bridgerton-style music with the dancers giving instruction on the ballroom dances. Cake will be the dessert.

The awards discussed were: longest serving county volunteer (Dave Detrick, over 40 years); oldest continually operating farm in the county (Mackey's, mid-1850s); oldest continually operating business in the county (discussion if it is Asbury Carbons or Plate Jewelers in Hackettstown); oldest congregation that is still active in the county (First Presbyterian Church of Oxford at Hazen, 1734); and then Warren County Citizen of the Bicentennial, Chuck Haytaian.

It was unclear if Miss Sharon would be bringing historical attire to display. The banjo and fiddle player are booked for the cocktail hour. Cathy Miller is booked to photograph the gala. Commissioner Ciesla will compile a list of photographs to be taken. Someone will be needed to be stationed at the entrances to welcome and check in the guests.

PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):

Due to members needing to leave early, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY DAY (6/28/25, rain date 6/29/25, at WCCC):

Ms. Rosseland received a letter from the Pocono Dulcimer Club requesting to play on the second stage on Community Day. Discussion will be tabled until the next meeting due to time.

NEW BUSINESS

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Ms. Rosseland said there is work being done on the Shippen Manor driveway. The museum is tentatively closed. She hopes to have it open in time for the History Trail on November 3, as that is their biggest day of the year. If the building is not accessible, Ms. Rosseland will have talks at Oxford Furnace.

The Phillipsburg-Easton Halloween Parade is Sunday, October 27. Ms. Rapisardi and Ms. White were going to decorate a car and drive in the parade again to represent BCHAB; however, Ms. Rapisardi now has a conflict.

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

Ms. Rosseland provided a monthly report to the Committee.

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Ms. Rosseland provided a monthly report to the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

None.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting on November 19 conflicts with the League of Municipalities meetings in Atlantic City. Mr. Young made a motion, seconded by Ms. Primerano, to cancel the November 19 meeting. All voted in favor. Motion passed. The next meeting will be held December 17, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Rapisardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fineran. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:48PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.