

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
JANUARY 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

As this is the reorganization meeting, Mr. Tierney called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Mr. Tierney read the opening statement.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Mark Young, Karin White, Jane Primerano, and Richard Gardner (arrived at 5:09 PM)

Members Absent: Randy Piazza, Sr.

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Kim Barnes, Art Charlton, and Commissioner Lori Ciesla (arrived at 5:05 PM)

REORGANIZATION

NOMINATIONS:

Mr. Young made a motion to nominate Ms. Rapisardi as Board Chair, seconded by Mr. Fineran. Ms. Rapisardi accepted the nomination. All voted in favor.

Ms. Primerano made a motion to nominate Mr. Fineran as Board Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Young. Mr. Fineran accepted the nomination. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fineran made a motion to nominate Ms. Primerano as Board Secretary, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor.

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE:

There was discussion about the BCHAB continuing after this bicentennial year. Mr. Tierney said there can be further discussion, but his understanding is the board will continue, possibly without "Bicentennial" in the name. They would still vote on the arts and history grants and could possibly meet quarterly, instead of monthly. There is also the nation's semiquincentennial anniversary in 2026, if the board members wish to continue volunteering. Commissioner Ciesla arrived at 5:05 PM. She said the county is signed up to be part of RevolutionNJ.

Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting schedule, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor. Meetings will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5 PM - February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16, and in 2026: January 20 (reorganization).

Mr. Gardner arrived at 5:09 PM.

MINUTES

The October 15, 2024 minutes were reviewed (November and December meetings had been cancelled). Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Primerano. All voted in favor. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Rosseland provided one piece of correspondence from the Pocono Dulcimer Club that will be discussed more during the Community Day segment later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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

The gala was held on November 12 at David's Country Inn. Everyone thought it was very successful and received compliments from attendees.

There was discussion on having another closing / thank you gala with reenactors that leads into the semiquincentennial.

More bicentennial wine glasses need to be ordered.

PARADE (May 2025? in Belvidere):

The parade is put on hold for now in order to focus on Community Day.

COMMUNITY DAY (6/28/25, 12pm-9pm, followed by fireworks (rain date 6/29/25) at WCCC):

JamFam changed names and is now Municipal Event Services (MES). Mr. Tierney emphasized that the contract needs to get finalized as soon as possible. The College has not confirmed whether it was able to secure a drone show provider. There was discussion comparing a drone show, fireworks, or a laser light show set to music. Mr. Fineran made a motion to proceed with the contract with MES to include fireworks, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor.

MES wanted more specifics on the types of games desired. There was discussion on vintage carnival games, like knocking cans over with a ball, shooting gallery, ring toss, goldfish toss, duck pond, etc.

Mike with MES will take care of the sound engineer. Once he is provided with the musicians and their set times, he will handle the rest.

A meeting will be coordinated with Alex Lazorisak, County Administrator and Emergency Management Coordinator, and Dennis Riley, Director of Public Safety, to determine the location of the fireworks.

Community group vendors, food vendors, roaming performers, and face painting are wanted.

There was discussion about a wine/beer garden, featuring only Warren County wineries and breweries. There is a chance a Warren County distillery might be open by then, too. Wineries can sell samples/tastings and full bottles off-site, but cannot sell by the glass off-site per state law. Ms. Rapisardi made a motion to include a wine/beer garden at Community Day with only Warren County businesses if the county allows it, seconded by Ms. Primerano. All voted in favor.

Ms. Rosseland has three bands scheduled for the main stage: Toga Party (70s & 80s music), the Roulettes (50s and 60s music), and Water Street (original music).

Most of the acts for the second stage are duos or trios, except for the Pocono Dulcimer Club.

Ms. Primerano made a motion to officially set the rain date as the next day, which is Sunday, June 29. Mr. Fineran seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The contracts with the musicians will need to address payment with the rain date and payment if it rains both days.

Full advertising will start in February when the contract with MES is approved by the commissioners. A logo including a carnival tent was discussed.

Commissioner Ciesla and Mr. Charlton left at 6:15 PM.

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION:

- **BOOK** – No updates at this time.
- **WEBSITE** – In process.
- **HISTORIC MARKERS** – Ms. Rosseland was asked by the state to be on an advisory committee for their State Historical Marker Program. She was also invited to speak at the NJ History and Historic Preservation Conference in June.

NEW BUSINESS

OUTREACH EVENTS:

No updates at this time.

ARTS PROGRAMS / GRANT:

Ms. Rosseland reported summer concerts are cancelled for now at both Shippen Manor and Bread Lock Park as construction will be occurring at both sites. Grant monies will be directed elsewhere. She has been speaking with local artists to have them start a traveling art program, visiting youth centers and senior centers. Ms. Rosseland gave an update on the contract renewals and status of the Arts grants. She will provide a list of Local Arts Programming (LAP) grant applications next month to be voted on. Hunterdon County and Warren County will partner for Teen Arts in 2026.

COUNTY MUSEUMS / CHPP GRANT:

Ms. Rosseland will provide a list of County History Partnership Program (CHPP) grant applications next month to be voted on. She gave an update on the contract renewal and status of the CHPP grants. The Shippen Manor Museum scheduling for 2025 will be finalized in April.

Ms. Rosseland is thinking of holding an essay and/or photo contest in the county for the bicentennial or the semiquincentennial for grades 9-12. This can be a joint history-arts contest for high school students in U.S. History I courses.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

none

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held February 18, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.