

**WARREN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL
CULTURAL & HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD**

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Mark Young, Jane Primerano, Richard Gardner, and Karin White

Members Absent: Charles Fineran and Randy Piazza, Sr.

Staff Present: Gina Rosseland, Kim Barnes

Staff Absent: Corey Tierney, Art Charlton, and Commissioner Lori Ciesla

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The January 21, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Rosseland will share correspondence when discussing the historic markers.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Ms. Rosseland has sent out the contracts to the musicians, due back 2/28. Main stage and second stage slots are completely filled. Once she receives the contracts back, she will forward their contact information to Mike Kestin with MES and he will have them coordinate with the sound engineer.

The bands scheduled for the main stage, consisting of five or more members, are: Maribyrd & the Wooden Nickel Band (acoustic Americana), Water Street (original music, Indie-Americana), Roulette the Band (60s/70s music), Toga Party Band (80s/90s music), and We May Be Right (Billy Joel tribute band). MES will provide a drum kit on the stage.

Second stage acts will be: Pocono Dulcimer Club, Exit 12 & the Muskrat Ramblers, Coo Coo Cachoo, Jesse Bardwell & the Noble Brothers, and The Three Lelicas.

Ms. Rosseland tried to stagger the acts on the two stages, so one doesn't interfere with the other, but wasn't able to do so for the entire time. The stages will have to be set up with that in mind.

Mr. Tierney will address the planning information at the next meeting, including fireworks.

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION:

- **BOOK** – No updates at this time.
- **WEBSITE** – Ms. Rosseland hopes the website will go live in May. Municipalities will be listed alphabetically and each will have some information and photos.
- **HISTORIC MARKERS** – Ms. Rosseland received a call from Ina Walls, who is interested in a historic marker for Mansfield Twp./Anderson for a black resident who passed away at the age of 103. The sign would be placed on her brother-in-law's property on Clinton Avenue. Ms. Rosseland instructed her to obtain permission from the Mansfield Twp. council and written permission from her brother-in-law as property owner. Ina's goal is to have it done in time for Juneteenth.

NEW BUSINESS

ARTS PROGRAMS / LAP GRANT & COUNTY MUSEUMS / CHPP GRANT:

Ms. Rosseland provided BCHAB with a list of grant applicants for the Local Arts Program (LAP) and the County History Partnership Program (CHPP).

There are twelve LAP grant applicants for 2025, requesting a total of \$99,966: Abilities of Northwest Jersey (\$15,000), Arts at St. Luke's (\$6,000), Flying Festivals of Warren Co. (\$8,546), Friends of Warren Co. Library (\$10,095), Hackettstown BID (\$10,325), Knowlton Twp. Historical Commission (\$10,500), Lopatcong Rec Commission (\$6,000), NJ Civic Youth Ballet (\$12,000), Warren Co. Arts (\$5,000), Washington BID (\$6,500), and Water Gap Singers (\$6,000). Mr. Young made a motion to approve all LAP grant applications, seconded by Ms. White. Mr. Young, Ms. White, and Mr. Gardner voted to approve all. Ms. Rapisardi abstained for Hackettstown BID, Hackettstown Community Band, and NJ Civic Youth Ballet, but voted in favor of all others. Ms. Primerano abstained for the Arts at St. Luke's and Washington BID, but voted in favor of all others. Motion passed to approve all LAP grant applications. Beginning in 2026 per the state of NJ, municipal and county government entities will not be eligible for funding through the NJ State Council of the Arts. They'd have to partner with a local nonprofit. The counties are challenging this because the guidelines are not very clear.

There are four 2025 CHPP grant applicants, requesting a total of \$14,927: Hope Historical Preservation Commission (\$3,998.74), Hope Historical Society (\$3,178.26), Knowlton Twp. Historical Commission (\$3,750), and Rutherford Hall Foundation (\$4,000). Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve all CHPP grant applications, seconded by Mr. Young. Mr. Young, Ms. White, and Mr. Gardner voted to approve all. Ms. Rapisardi abstained for Rutherford Hall, but voted in favor of all others. Ms. Primerano abstained from voting on both Hope groups, but voted to approve all others. Motion passed to approve all CHPP grant applications. Total CHPP grant monies remaining would be \$11,096. Ms. Rosseland will hire a conservator for workshops for the regrantees and possibly offer additional funds during the summer to expend all the grant monies.

The Senior Citizen Art Show will be in mid-May at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building. Art will be displayed until the end of August. Winners will go to the state show in late September/early October.

Ms. Rosseland has the assisted care performers lined up. She is also piloting a program called "Traveling Arts." Two artists have been hired to do two sessions of art projects a month in June, July, and August with the seniors in six facilities.

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.

Ms. Rosseland asked the board if they want to continue doing outreach at the municipal community day events. There was agreement that it is not needed now that we are in the bicentennial year. It was more to bring awareness to the bicentennial.

Opening day for Shippen Manor is the first Sunday in May and will celebrate the county bicentennial.

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Ms. Rosseland received a phone call from Phillipsburg, but she is not able to be at their events and she isn't sure who they spoke with. Alpha would also like someone from BCHAB to come to their event. Ms. Rosseland has a couple speaking engagements scheduled – Hackettstown in May and sometime this year in Hope on the bicentennial and how Warren County got its name.

There was discussion about WRNJ and its Educationally Speaking series. Dr. Will Austin, President of Warren County Community College, is supposed to speak tomorrow on the bicentennial.

Ms. Rapisardi said agencies, like the Rotary Clubs and Centenary University Alumni, have reached out wanting to get involved with the bicentennial.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to get volunteer/staff Community Day t-shirts, seconded by Ms. Primerano. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

none

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held March 18, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.