

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Mark Young, Jane Primerano (left at 6:04 PM), and Richard Gardner (arrived at 5:06 PM)

Members Absent: Charles Fineran and Karin White

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland (left at 6:01 PM), Kim Barnes, Commissioner Lori Ciesla, Art Charlton, and Holly Luberto

Staff Absent:

BCHAB Member Randy Piazza, Sr. has resigned.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

(Minutes postponed until there was a quorum when Mr. Gardner arrived.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION:

- **WEBSITE** – Ms. Rosseland is about halfway through the list of towns on the website. The goal is to go live with it in May.
- **HISTORIC MARKERS** – Ms. Rosseland is waiting to hear back from Ina Walls, who is interested in a historic marker for Mansfield Twp./Anderson. The marker would be 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 spoke with the township and instructed them as to what kind of letter needed to be written granting permission for Ina to move forward with the marker. She will also need written permission from her brother-in-law as property owner. There have been no new requests.

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

Ms. Rosseland has four musicians lined up to perform at the assisted care facilities. There will also be a Traveling Arts pilot program. 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. The Senior Citizen Art Show and reception will be on Friday, May 16th, at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building. Art will be displayed until August 21st. First place winners will go to the state show in September. Ms. Rosseland needs to leave tonight's meeting early to go to the Warren County Youth Art Show at Centenary University.

Approval of the CHPP grant applications and LAP grant applications are pending approval from the county commissioners.

Ms. Rosseland received an email from the Social Studies Coordinator at the NJ Dept. of Education. They are launching the Revolutionary Schools program to support and celebrate schools that commemorate the country's 250th anniversary through exemplary social studies education, civic engagement, and local history research. Ms. Rosseland was asked to do a virtual informational session to make schools aware of the county's current and upcoming programs.

Mr. Gardner arrived at 5:06 PM.

Ms. Primerano asked for more details on why the grant applications are still pending. Mr. Tierney reported they have been submitted to the county commissioners and have been tabled for further review. Applicants are informed prior to submission to not proceed until May or when the funds get approved.

MINUTES

The February 18, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. Ms. Primerano made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All voted in favor. Minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Musicians - There are four bands scheduled for the main stage (26'x20'), running from 12pm-9:15pm: 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). The second stage (16'x20') is scheduled for 12pm-6pm: Pocono Dulcimer Club, Exit 12 & the Muskrat Ramblers, Coo Coo Cachoo, Jesse Bardwell & the Noble Brothers, and The Three Lelicas.

Vendors - The county commissioners approved the contract with Municipal Entertainment Services (MES). There will be 15-20 food trucks, 30 craft/commercial vendors, a beer garden, tents for the beer garden and food, fencing, tables, the two stages, etc. MES will provide various games (a 3-game game trailer and a frog toss trailer, includes prizes) and rides (four inflatables, one mechanical ride, a trackless train, and a rockwall/bungee combo). Games will be free to play. The day will end with a 25-minute fireworks display.

The Dept. of Public Works will provide garbage cans and will have about a dozen employees working staggered shifts to cover the event. The Dept. of Public Safety is working on dozens of law enforcement. A lot of bottled water will be needed for these personnel and law enforcement, so donations will be sought. NJ Youth Corps will help with parking. Warren County Technical School's Police Explorers have also been asked to assist with parking. There are 412 parking spaces at the

college and 252 spaces at Warren Tech. Handicap and VIP parking will be at the closest lot by Warren Tech. Mr. Tierney has also reached out to other nearby businesses, churches, and schools that have large parking lots. Dennis Riley, Director of Public Safety, is checking on availability of bus companies.

Quotes have been obtained for porta johns, including standard units, ADA units, and hand wash stations.

MES will coordinate the commercial vendors, prioritizing Warren County vendors. Ms. Rosseland has reached out to the local historical societies and groups (2 have confirmed so far). Elizabeth Roy has reached out to local authors (who live in Warren County or have written about Warren County), with two confirmed so far to attend. There will need to be a vendor parking area. MES has the commercial vendors staying till 6 PM and leaving by 7 PM. After discussion, it was agreed to invite all types of non-profits that serve Warren County, not just historical, as well as county agencies. Only commercial/for-profit vendors will be charged a tabling fee. Vendor space will be staked out. It was suggested asking vendors if they any special requirements.

The board was asked to reach out to other vendors and authors they know or to forward their contact information. Ms. Primerano shared news of a new book about the decommissioning of the Morris Canal and will try to get the author's contact information. It was also suggested to invite RevNJ to participate in the day.

End times for the vendors and rides will be discussed in the next weekly meeting with MES. The main stage headliner starts at 7:30 PM and fireworks will be around 9:15 PM.

Offering bicentennial merchandise was discussed, including who would run the merchandise tent and take payment. A limited number of t-shirts could be ordered in advance to sell, possibly along with mugs and wine glasses. MES is working on getting an ATM on site. Bicentennial merchandise would have to be paid for in cash.

BCHAB should have an information tent with lost & found, first aid, etc. Members could cover it in shifts. Shirts will be ordered in neon yellow with blue lettering. The bicentennial logo will be on the front with "Event Staff" on the back.

Promotion of Event - Mr. Charlton and Ms. Luberto are working on an 11"x17" poster with the music line-up printed on it, fliers, and rack cards. He asked the BCHAB members to help distribute them when they are ready. (Ms. Rosseland left the meeting at 6:01 PM. Ms. Primerano left the meeting at 6:04 PM.) It was suggested to send out a save-the-date social media post as soon as possible. Ideas for advertising included leaving posters or rack cards at post offices, diners, and stores; radio ads and interviews; social media; electronic billboards run by the towns and at the college; and displaying banners at Bread Lock Park and White Lake.

There was discussion about labeling the day as a "free" event, as some things are free (parking, admission, rides, games, music), but some things do cost money (food and drink, vendor merchandise, possible tethered hot air balloon rides).

We are fifteen weeks out from the event. Weekly conference calls, instead of waiting for the monthly BCHAB meetings, to check on progress.

In the event of bad weather on either/both days, the Board of County Commissioners will decide on cancellation. Also, if there is a drought, the fireworks show may have to be postponed or canceled.

Thanks were given by the board to the county staff, Board of County Commissioners, and County Administrator for their work on the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

none

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held April 15, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.