

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
JUNE 17, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Karin White, Jane Primerano, Richard D. Gardner, and Alex Ibarra (arrived at 5:15 PM)

Members Absent: Mark Young

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Art Charlton (arrived at 5:21 PM), and Commissioner Lori Ciesla

Staff Absent: None

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The May 20, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. White. Ms. Primerano and Mr. Gardner abstained. Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Fineran, and Ms. White voted in favor. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION:

- **HISTORIC MARKERS** – Ms. Rosseland distributed grant summaries to the board members. Application summary for Mansfield Township is deferred by the municipality to Ms. Ina Walls for Anderson in relation to the African American community in 1926 that consisted of 127 acres of land owned by E.B. Birdsall. The workers were recruited from Newark for the local industries. The sign will be located on Clinton Ave., well within the boundaries of the development, about 10-15 feet from Anderson, facing both roads. The sign will be produced and installed by Frank Blanche. All documentation has been received. The sign will be installed on the property of Ms. Walls' nephew. Alternative locations are either the Seventh Day Adventist or the First Baptist Church of Anderson, and letters were submitted. Ms. Walls will be paying for the installation. She is affiliated with the Captain Campbell Heritage and other local organizations. There are no signs marking African American communities in the County. Once the board approves, Ms. Walls will be notified to begin the process of producing and installing the sign. Once completed, Ms. Rosseland will visit the site, photograph and pin the location for County records.
- **WEBSITE** – The website is in progress.

COUNTY MUSEUMS / CHPP GRANTS:

Ms. Rosseland notified the board members that the CHPP 2025 re-grantees were provided with an extension for their interim reports to July by the NJ Historic Commission. The interim workshop was scheduled on Monday, June 16, 2025. Additional funds (\$8,096.00) will be offered to the re-grantees and they have until July 1, 2025 to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The re-grantees are already approved by the review panel and would have to provide a funding request that will need to be approved by the Advisory Board before being submitted with the Board of County Commissioners for resolution. Each group will be offered \$2,024.00. In addition, two conservator workshops are in the process of being scheduled for re-grantees this summer.

ARTS PROGRAMS / LAP GRANT:

Regular and Educator Mini-Grants for arts programming and projects are still available. There has been one non-profit request in the past week. Educators are at the end of their year, so it will be anticipating this grant will begin to pick up again once school commences.

Assisted care performances are still occurring at county facilities and the feedback has been good. Also, the pilot program for the Traveling Arts is in the process and things are going well.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Tierney provided handouts to the board with the publicly-facing map that will go on the website, the event area, parking and shuttle service area. Mr. Charlton will have 5,000 produced for visitors taking the shuttle buses to the event. Mr. Tierney discussed the layout of the tents for vendors and exhibitors (non-profits, County agencies, and other), with numbered spaces for each. The parking area nearest the tent will be for exhibitors and vendors, only. Ms. Rosseland is preparing table labels and Mr. Kestin (MES) is arranging parking passes, which will be distributed shortly. Once received, they will be distributed to all participants. All participants will be asked to display a parking pass and tabling label when they are in site in case there is an issue, the vehicle can quickly be identified.

Mr. Tierney explained that there will be a few rides and games for the children. Ms. Ciesla added that there will be blow-ups for the children as well. Mr. Tierney further explained that primary attraction will be music throughout the day, twenty food trucks, a beer garden, truck and tractor display, the vendor tent, and the exhibitor tent. There will be free tethered hot air balloon rides for a certain amount of time, followed by a balloon launch and an inflated hot air balloon (weather permitted). Fireworks are scheduled for the evening.

For security purposes, vehicle traffic on site will be shut down during the fireworks. Exhibitors are to come for set-up after 10 AM and we will recommend they break down around 7-7:30 PM so they can be out by 8-8:30 PM. If they want to wait for the fireworks, they have to wait for it to conclude with the anticipation of crowds and will probably be there until 10 PM.

Ms. Rapisardi asked if more water was needed. ServPro offered to donate more cases of water. In addition, Shop Rite will be donating some water. Any additional water donations will be accepted and water used for County staff and law enforcement personnel the day of the event and any left over water will be saved for a future event.

Mr. Fineran asked if there was help for exhibitors to off-load their tabling items. Mr. Tierney said either staff or volunteers can help them.

Ms. Rapisardi said that Mars has candy to donate for the Bicentennial and asked how the County will pick it up. The donations will be stored and on the day of the event, distributed to the County tables as needed. Ms. Rapisardi will provide the contact information to Mr. Tierney who will then share the information with Mr. Calvin Inscho, Supervisor of Roads (Public Works), who will coordinate the pick-up.

Ms. Rapisardi inquired about the number of chairs rented for the event. Mr. Tierney said for the big exhibitor tent, he rented 160 chairs and 180 tables, with two chairs per table. A table and two chairs are set aside for WRNJ and the same for Weights & Measures. There should be an extra five tables and fourteen chairs, which will help if extra are needed elsewhere. Ms. Ciesla asked if there are chairs under the tent at the beer garden. Mr. Tierney confirmed that the event planner (Municipal Events Services, MES) will provide that. There is also table and chairs for the food tent, and a shade tent, north of the audience by the main stage, that will not have tables or chairs.

Ms. Rapisardi inquired about the balloons being donated by Delloons, LLC to let them know the colors for the event. It was agreed that the balloon colors would be red, white, blue and gold and the design will be columns off the sides of both stages. Mr. Charlton described the banners for both stages (three at the main, one at the second stage) and the colors of the balloons would complement the banners.

Ms. Primerano left the meeting at 5:30 PM.

The Bicentennial sub-committee meeting for Wed., June 18, 2025 will be cancelled, but the meeting prior to the Bicentennial (June 25) is still be scheduled as it is the week of the event.

The advisory board members scheduled to participate at the Bicentennial table at the event.

Mr. Charlton will emcee the main stage while Ms. Rapisardi will be at the second stage. Mr. Charlton will open the event. After the first band finishes at 1:15 PM, the National Anthem will be sung, followed by the Town Cryer (William Joseph of Belvidere), Board of County Commissioners, Assembly Minority Leader John DiMaio and Assemblyman Erik Peterson of the 23rd Legislative District with state remarks, and Frank Seney, Jr. will speak on behalf of his father, Frank Seney, Sr. who is the oldest living Warren Co. Freeholder. During the course of the day, others will speak during the band breaks.

Volunteer and staff t-shirts will be distributed the week and day of the event. Staff will wear bright yellow ("event staff") and volunteers will wear bright orange ("volunteers") with the Bicentennial logo on the front. T-shirts for sale are grey with the Bicentennial logo in black on the front.

Mr. Tierney said that the day before, Buildings & Grounds will set up the tables and chairs. There will be a cooler at the Bicentennial table for water for the volunteers and staff. Buildings & Grounds will distribute water to law enforcement and other staff. Service animals are the only animals permitted (Red Cross has two certified service animals) and 4-H will have some animals on site as well. Vet certificates and/or certificates of insurance are to be submitted by both organizations prior to or day of the event.

Food vouchers for County staff and volunteers will be verified by Mr. Tierney. No outside alcohol or coolers will be permitted, but personal lunch coolers can be brought in by participants who are tabling for the day.

Ms. Rosseland cited ADA requests and Mr. Tierney said there will be designated ADA parking and a dozen or so golf carts if visitors or participants need assistance. There will be some designated ADA parking by the tent for participants. For exhibitors, parking mid-day may be more difficult for switching out, and it was recommended that they should hand off their parking passes and spots to the person replacing them. Ms. Rosseland recommended to exhibitors bringing a lot of people to car pool so that it will be ensured there will be enough parking. The vendor lot is for loading and unloading and they can park elsewhere.

Mr. Tierney said GST busing was hired to shuttle visitors, and an ADA-equipped vehicle can be requested. County staff will be at each shuttle bus parking area with a transportation coordinator working with the bus company.

The Bicentennial table will also have free giveaways including stickers, magnets, commemorative pins, wooden nickels and crayons. They will also sell Bicentennial t-shirts (\$10) and stemless wine glasses with the

Bicentennial logo (\$50). Items for sale are cash-only. Also, there will be samples of other t-shirts displayed that people can purchase at the on-line store. There will be a QR code displayed for people who want to order on-line.

Mr. Charlton asked if anyone needed lawn signs for the Bicentennial that he still had a few and would distribute them after the meeting. Mr. Charlton and Ms. Rosseland have some rack cards remaining.

Mr. Charlton also mentioned that 250 years ago on this date, Dr. Joseph Warren died at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Gardner stated that June 16th was the anniversary of the Rockport Train Wreck. The mayor of Mansfield recently installed a 100th anniversary sign in remembrance of that event.

Ms. Ciesla, Ms. Rosseland, Mr. Charlton and Ms. Rapisardi were planning to be at WRNJ on Wed., June 18th to discuss the Bicentennial Celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held July 15, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fineran. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina Rosseland,
Assistant Administrator
Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs