

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue  
Oxford, NJ 07863

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Laurie Rapisardi  
Charles Fineran (left at 6:05 PM)  
Jane Primerano  
Richard D. Gardner  
Alex Ibarra  
Mark Young

**Members Absent:** Karin White

**Staff Present:** Gina Rosseland  
Andrea Franks  
Art Charlton

**Staff Absent:** Comm. Lori Ciesla

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2025, seconded by Mr. Fineran. Motioned carried with Mr. Young and Ms. Rapisardi abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Noted for the record. There were no members of the public in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Continuing Section 106 Consultation Re Route 122, Lock Street to Route 22 Roadway Improvements (HPO Project # 25-0943)**

Ms. Rosseland read the letter to the Board, which explains the purpose of the project and where it is taking place. She stated that she would send a copy to the Board tomorrow so that they are aware, but that it does not require a vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Website**

Ms. Rosseland stated that the website is almost done, and that she has been working on including cemeteries that have Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans mentioned, as well as other [GR1][AF2][AF3] significant

personnel. Ms. Rosseland also mentioned that she would be acknowledging all of the individuals and organizations that provided information. She anticipates making the website live before the next meeting.

### **Historic Markers**

Ms. Rosseland stated that Ina Walls with Mansfield received confirmation from the sign maker that their sign is done. She stated that it would definitely be installed by January [GR4] of 2026, and after that, she will go to the sign and take pictures for the website.

### **County Museum**

Ms. Rosseland reviewed the list of events at Shippen Manor for the remainder of this year, highlighting History Trail Day. She asked for help from the Board on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Primerano, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Ibarra stated that they would come. Ms. Rosseland also asked the Board if they would accept lowering the price of the Bicentennial T-Shirts from \$10.00 to \$5.00. A motion was made by Ms. Rapisardi, seconded by Mr. Young. Motion carried with none abstaining.

### **Grants**

Ms. Rosseland stated that she held the LAP 2026 Application Workshop on October 15<sup>th</sup> where she went over the new application and guidelines for the coming year. She stated that applications are due November 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Rosseland said that the 2025 Final Report Workshop is tomorrow [GR5], Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that she may need to do a make-up date for those who are out of state or out of country. She stated that the Final Reports are due no later than January 6, 2026 [GR6] for grantees with December programming.

Ms. Rosseland reported that for Educator and Regular Mini-Grants, we have 19 educators and soon to be 11 non-profits that benefitted. She discussed the recent grant outreach she did for youth and senior citizens at events in Alpha and Phillipsburg.

Regarding the County History Partnership Program (CHPP) [GR7] Grant, Ms. Rosseland stated that the Application Workshop for 2026 would be held virtually on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and that applicants would have the option to choose a Special Project or General Operating Support. She stated that the Applications for 2026 were due January 7<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that the 2025 History Grant Workshop for Final Reports would be held virtually on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Rev250 Project Proposal for Warren County**

Ms. Rosseland proposed a Rev250 Initiative for next year, which would either be a photography or art contest open to all high school and/or middle school students in Warren County highlighting ideals of the American Revolution. She noted that the project could include images of local history including buildings, farms, structures, cemeteries, monuments, and could be adjudicated. She also proposed that the Board approve a gift card or award for winners of different age ranges and categories [GR8].

Ms. Rosseland also said she discussed a Revolutionary School initiative, as a separate project, with the Department Director of Warren Hills. She stated that she would like their help with audio, video, and signs for the museum [GR9].

Ms. Rosseland discussed the ADA Equipment that was purchased for the museum including an iPad, assistive listening devices, and personal amplification systems.

Mr. Young asked if the Bicentennial Initiative would be rolling into the Rev250 Initiative. He also stated that the

Mayor of Belvidere expressed interest in having Belvidere host a Rev250 Initiative, noting that they would need to vote to put money aside for such a purpose. Ms. Rosseland stated that it would need to be up to the respective towns to host their own initiatives, noting that many of the towns that were brought over to Warren County during its formation have a lot of Revolutionary War history.

Ms. Rapisardi asked if there would be another event for the Bicentennial such as a gala or parade. A discussion of the June Bicentennial Event ensued, particularly regarding attendance numbers.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve gifting Bicentennial T-Shirts to the individuals who brought their farm equipment to the June Event, seconded by Mr. Fineran. Motion carried with none abstaining.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Noted for the record. There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held November 18, 2025.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 PM, seconded by Ms. Primerano. Motion carried with none abstaining.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Franks  
Clerk, Cultural & Heritage Affairs