

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
JUNE 18, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran (left at 6:02pm), Mark Young, Jane Primerano, Richard Gardner

Members Absent: Karin White, Randy Piazza Sr.

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland

Staff Absent: Commissioner Lori Ciesla, Art Charlton

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The May 21, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes as is. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mr. Gardner abstained from voting as he was not present at that meeting. All others voted in favor and minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL BOOK:

Ms. Rosseland has been working on posting photos online; however, there has been some technical difficulty.

WEBSITE:

Ms. Rosseland updated the website with an ADA statement as per the State Council on the Arts. As a historic site, Shippen Manor is not held to all of the standards other sites are, but Ms. Rosseland will accommodate as best she can. The lawn concerts and the programming for Shippen Manor have been posted.

HISTORIC MARKERS:

Ms. Rosseland reported that Hardwick Twp. applied for a historic marker grant. They want to put a bronze plaque affixed to a millstone in front of the cemetery and Spring Valley Christian Church ruins. Washington Borough is waiting for their sign to be installed on the corner of Myrtle Ave. and Route 31. Harmony Twp.'s was already installed at the Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead. Mr. Tierney suggested sending out a press release once they are all completed. Ms. Rapisardi made a motion to approve Hardwick's application, with Ms. Primerano seconding the motion. All voted in favor.

BICENTENNIAL SUMMER CONCERT (7/13/24, 4pm-8pm at Bread Lock Park):

Mr. Tierney distributed copies of the flier that Ms. Rapisardi created for board members to distribute. Mr. Young said he'd take a stack to the Belvidere Post Office. Mr. Young also volunteered to man a BCHAB table at the concert. Mr. Gardner said he can also tentatively be there. Strike Sound will be providing the sound. The bands will be Kate & Paul and Stereo Junkies. The kids' entertainment from 4:30-6:30 will be Go with Yoyo and face painting by Zella Bella's Gaggles of Giggles. The food trucks will be Tia B's Street Tacos and Humpty Jr.'s. There was discussion on how to handle the free ice cream for kids under age 14. It was suggested to ask Humpty Jr's to stamp the kids' hands when they get their free ice cream. Ms. Rosseland asked who will be announcing the bands. Deputy Commissioner Kern and Commissioner Ciesla should both be there and one of them might be the announcer. They could also announce that each child under 14 years old gets a free ice cream. Five groups so far have applied to set up a table at the concert. BCHAB and Explore Warren will also set up tables. Park Naturalist Jennifer Correa-Kruegel will either have a table or lead a program. Banners to advertise the concert are on the wagon at Bread Lock Park. The NJ Youth Corps will move it out by the road by the end of the week. Another banner was discussed with verbiage similar to "Warren County – Celebrating 200 Years" with the bicentennial and county logos. This banner could be used in front of the stage for the summer concert and carried at the front of the bicentennial parade next year. It was agreed to make the banner red, white, and blue. OK4WD is advertising the concert on their digital ad board. An event was created on Facebook. Lawn signs were printed and on hand so the board members can display them at locations across the county with good visibility. Ms. Rapisardi suggested waiting a little closer to the concert date to set up the lawn signs. The Parks Foundation will have some of the Schisler canal paintings set up in the barn during the concert with a volunteer present.

BICENTENNIAL GALA (11/20/24 at David's Country Inn):

Tickets will be \$55 each. The times discussed last month were 6pm-9pm, but on the contract the times are 6pm-10pm. Ms. Rapisardi booked classic ballroom dance instructors. The theme will be American Renaissance. Award categories still need to be decided on and will be discussed further in a subcommittee meeting. Mr. Tierney will look into Event Brite for the ticketing. Once a flier is created, it can be added to Event Brite. The gala can also be advertised at the summer concert on 7/13 as the next upcoming event.

PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):

Mr. Charlton has been speaking with Dennis Riley, Warren County Public Safety Director & President of Belvidere's Good Will Fire Co. #1, about the parade. The town of Belvidere needs to be contacted (mayor & chief of police). Saturday, May 10 or around there is being considered since May 11 was the date that the newly formed Warren County had their first meeting in 1825. Invites need to be sent out. All the towns in the county should be contacted, along with schools, American Legions & VFW's, color guards, fire departments, etc. Advertising needs to be planned/started.

COMMUNITY DAY (6/28/25, rain date 6/29/25, at WCCC):

The subcommittee had a productive meeting. Mr. Tierney will outline what was decided and submit a summary to Jam Fam and get a revised quote. Then he will get a draft agreement to County counsel for review. Commissioner Ciesla was checking with Dr. Austin (WCCC President) to see if he was able to secure a drone show.

NEW BUSINESS

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Ms. Rapisardi asked if BCHAB needed to set up and man a table or sign up to watch the building at the Warren County Farmers' Fair. Last year, the bicentennial material was set up on the Land Preservation Dept. table. Mr. Charlton will need to let the board know. Mr. Tierney said the rack cards would get updated with the current bicentennial event information and ordered for the fair.

Mr. Fineran reported the Delaware River Sojourn tabling night on 6/17 went well. Mr. Charlton did a great job with his introduction explaining how Warren County got its name and about the upcoming bicentennial. There were about 80 sojourners.

Mr. Young explained to the Belvidere Garden Club why BCHAB could only sponsor an event if it was county-wide. They discussed how people are usually more respectful during garden tours if they have paid to tour the gardens vs. free tours.

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Ms. Rosseland spoke during Shippen Manor's first Shippen Talks of the season on "Warren County, where it all began" on June 2. There were 10 people in attendance. The second Sunday was a Henry-Scranton talk and 14 people attended. The numbers have increased since last year. This Thursday, a homeschool group of 17 kids and 10 adults will be visiting Shippen Manor.

Round 2 for the CHPP grant just went to panel review. At next month's meeting, it will be ready for a vote on the 3 applicants.

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

Mini-grants are still available for non-profits and teachers. It is a one-time ask for \$2,000 or less.

The summer lawn concerts at Shippen (Sundays, July 7 through Sept. 1, 6pm-8pm) are posted, along with ADA statements.

Mr. Tierney distributed a proposed Warren County Bicentennial Cultural & Heritage Advisory Board Accessibility Policy. The State Council on the Arts are working with a non-profit Theatre Alliance to condition future grants on developing accessibility policies. They want all counties to demonstrate that they are complying with the ADA and making programs as accessible as possible. The proposed policy will be added to the agenda for next month's meeting to be voted on. ADA policy guidelines were discussed.

Mr. Fineran left at 6:02pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held July 16, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Primerano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.