

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue  
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON  
AUGUST 20, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran (left at 6:03pm), Mark Young, Richard Gardner, and Jane Primerano

**Members Absent:** Karin White, Randy Piazza Sr.

**Staff Present:** Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland, Commissioner Lori Ciesla (arrived 5:15pm), and Art Charlton (teleconferenced in)

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

**MINUTES**

The July 16, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

none

Since Mr. Fineran has to leave early and Commissioner Ciesla would be a few minutes late to discuss the gala, the Board decided to begin with items to vote on.

Ms. Rosseland reported there are \$4,191.71 additional funds available in the CHPP grant account. Three groups, who were Round 1 CHPP grant recipients, applied for additional funding: 1) Hope Creative Team requested \$1,830.81 and will be awarded \$1,567.00 to purchase a large projection screen for slide presentations and movies in the Hope Community Center; 2) Knowlton Twp. Historic Commission requested \$1,000-\$1,500 and will be awarded \$1,312.35 to fund graphic design services for another interpretive panel; and 3) Friends of Ramsaysburg requested \$1,000-\$1,500 and will be awarded \$1,312.35 to purchase durable stock posters to illustrate the History Trail and brochures. The rest of the available CHPP grant funds will be used for a conservator to hold an in-person workshop for the regrantees on the proper way to clean artifacts. Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the additional funding for these three groups, seconded by Mr. Young. Ms. Primerano abstained from voting on the funding for the Hope Creative Team, but voted yes for the others. Everyone else voted in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosseland handed out copies of the History Sign Grant Application to the Board members since this is the last year, so they can share with their respective towns if they haven't yet applied. The application and information are also available on [www.warren200.com](http://www.warren200.com). The three existing municipalities who received grant funds for historic signs are Harmony Twp (Van Nest-Hoff-Vanatta Farmstead), Washington Borough BID (Port Washington Basin Morris Canal), and the Hardwick Twp. Historical Society (Spring Valley Church and Cemetery). Mr. Tierney suggested the commissioners take photos with the three existing signs and send out a press release.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

There are no real updates. Mr. Tierney said Mr. Charlton sent an email with a few questions that need to be answered in order to get a new estimate from JamFam. It has been quite a while since we received the initial estimate and prices have gone up. The subcommittee can address the issues in Mr. Charlton's email and hopefully get the Commissioners' approval on the contract next month. Ms. Rosseland needs to update contracts for Toga Party Band and Water Street Band. Some info can be provided later, but we need to lock in the date.

### **PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):**

No updates. Mr. Charlton hopes to speak with Dennis Riley next week.

Commissioner Ciesla arrived at 5:15pm.

### **BICENTENNIAL GALA (new date – 11/12/24 at David's Country Inn):**

Commissioner Ciesla shared the news that all the County Commissioners are in agreement to underwrite a good portion of the gala in order to reduce the ticket price to make it more affordable to county residents. They will try to get donations to offset the cost. The Board agreed to the price of \$25/person for tickets sold before October 1 and \$35/person for tickets sold on/after October 1. All sales will end on November 1 so a headcount can be provided to David's Country Inn. The contract states a 4-hour event. The gala will start at 6pm and will have a cash bar. Stemless wine glasses (ordered for last year's canceled gala) with the bicentennial logo will be a parting gift. To have a decent dance floor, the max number of people would be 150-170. The Board agreed to a design for the flier and discussed the wording and information to be on it. Ms. Rosseland said she would create a paper order form for those who do not want to buy tickets through EventBrite. There will be an optional *Regency Era* themed costume contest. The phone number for the Dept. of Land Preservation with Ms. Barnes' extension will be added to the flier for anyone having questions. There will be strolling banjo and fiddle players for the cocktail hour and leading into dinner. Ms. Rapisardi will book a DJ for the main music and will ask if they can play Bridgerton-type music. Typically at David's, the guests will have cocktail hour in a separate room while the buffet is getting set up. When time, guests are directed into the main dining room and get seated. There will be a few words of welcome and then guests will be called up to the buffet. Once everyone has their meals, the dance demonstrations can begin. This will be followed by the awards ceremony, and then the dance floor will be opened to all. Ms. Rosseland will write the contract for the banjo and fiddle players for 5:45-8:00 (arriving on site at 5:30). The DJ will be 8:00-10:00. Meals for the entertainers will be provided.

There was discussion on the awards to be given out. The subcommittee will finalize the specifics and will have no more than five awards. Awards given to specific people will draw more people to the event. Mr. Fineran suggested Dave Detrick, who has been a volunteer with many committees and

organizations for many years. Generational farms, like Mackey's, and local businesses, like Plate Jeweler's, were also mentioned.

Mr. Gardner said during last week's County Agricultural Development Board meeting, Terry Urfer spoke with him about writing a letter from the CADB to the Library Commission asking if there can be a section on the "history of Warren County agriculture" in the county library. Mr. Gardner would like to link it with the bicentennial.

The gala subcommittee is Commissioner Ciesla, Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Fineran, and staff. A program should be created to hand out to gala guests. County history trivia can be shared throughout the evening and in the program. Panels on each town with trivia can be created and shared throughout the year at the different events or libraries. Mr. Charleston suggested having a special cake shaped like the old Sussex County that can be ceremoniously divided/cut to show the creation of Warren County. Mr. Tierney suggested memorializing the people who attend. They could sign their names on something that would be displayed. Ms. Barnes suggested a map of the county and guests could sign their name and where they live. There needs to be a master of ceremony for the gala.

### **BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION:**

**BOOK** - To be discussed at next month's meeting due to time.

**WEBSITE** - To be discussed at next month's meeting due to time.

**HISTORIC MARKERS** – Discussed earlier in meeting.

Mr. Fineran left at 6:03pm.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **OUTREACH EVENTS:**

September 28 is Knowlton Community Day at Tunnel Field. Ms. Rosseland offered to man a table.

Ms. Rosseland will also have a table at Alpha's Fall Fest on October 12, but is not available if they move it to their rain date of October 13.

Commissioner Ciesla asked Ms. Rosseland if she could man a table this Saturday, August 24, at Lopatcong's Community Day.

Belvidere's Victorian Day is September 7.

Balloon Fest at Warren County Community College is September 21-22.

#### **COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:**

The Shippen Museum schedule for the next two months is posted on the website. The program on Sunday, September 1, will be highlighting industries and mining in Oxford. Sunday's lawn concert featuring Out Past Curfew was canceled due to the weather. Senior Art Show participants are picking up their entries next Friday, unless they are advancing to the state level. There are five seniors representing Warren County going to the state show in September.

**COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:**

Funds for Round 2 of the CHPP grant [Hackettstown Historical Society (\$661.32), Hope Historic Preservation Commission (\$1,964.97), and Hope Historical Society (\$1,805.00)] were approved by the County Commissioners.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (open)

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held September 17, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Primerano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes  
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.