

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:06PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran, Mark Young, Karin White (left at 5:58pm), Richard Gardner, and Jane Primerano (arrived at 5:31pm)

Members Absent: Randy Piazza, Sr.

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Commissioner Lori Ciesla (left at 5:52pm), and Art Charlton

Staff Absent: Gina Rosseland

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement.

MINUTES

The August 20, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Young made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

- **BOOK:** Nothing new to report.
- **WEBSITE:** Nothing new to report.
- **HISTORIC MARKERS:** Nothing new to report.

BICENTENNIAL GALA (11/12/24, 6pm at David's Country Inn):

Twenty-four tickets have been sold so far. The radio ad is running on WRNJ and the Explore Warren Facebook ad has been boosted. Elected officials still need to be invited. Mr. Young is going to share the contact info for Miss Sharon's Historical Clothing for a possible fashion show. Awards will be discussed in an upcoming subcommittee meeting. The DJ is available but wants to discuss music. He can play the Bridgerton soundtracks, but will need to pay for the rights. There will be 6-8 ballroom dancers attending for entertainment and instruction. We will provide seating and meals for them. The tickets increase from \$25 to \$35 in 2 weeks. A display ad could be done in the Express-Times/Lehigh Valley Live. The gala is featured in Skylands Visitor email and an ad on the website.

It was suggested to hire a photographer for the gala. Mr. Charlton is going to email Cathy Miller. Ms. White also suggested Randy with Quarter Mile Photography. Mr. Young also suggested a step and repeat banner/backdrop for the photos. It can also be used at other future events. Ms. Rapisardi will check with the company they used for the Hackettstown BID's banner.

Mr. Charlton said Bert Baron (from WRNJ) is willing to MC the gala. He was already planning on attending. There should still be an opening speaker from BCHAB.

David's has different sized tables – seating for 8, 10, and 12. Ms. Rapisardi offered to create a seating chart. David's has table numbers that can be used.

Ms. Rapisardi will work on getting M&M's with the bicentennial logo on them that can be put in the wine glasses as favors. Other things to purchase include awards, the step and repeat banner, and centerpieces. It was suggested to reach out to the high school FFA's to arrange floral centerpieces. The wooden nickels can also be scattered on the tables. Programs for the gala should be created.

PARADE (Belvidere – MAY 2025?):

No updates. Mr. Charlton will contact the schools to make sure there are no schedule conflicts.

(Ms. Primerano arrived at 5:31pm.)

Instead of presenting a statue of Dr. Warren at the parade, it will be a portrait/painting of Dr. Warren. Jeff Echevarria is a local artist who was suggested. BCHAB still has the painting Jeff Echevarria donated for last year's silent auction and gala that was canceled. It could be raffled off during this year's gala.

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

There was a meeting to discuss different bands. Mr. Tierney said Ms. Rosseland was going to reach out to The Nerds and Mr. Charlton was going to reach out to Boathouse Row. Toga Party Band and Water Street Band are on board.

Commissioner Ciesla talked to Dr. Austin, Warren County Community College President, about the drone show. He is in contact with a few vendors. If it doesn't work out with one of them, we can use the company that Phillipsburg High uses (Celebrations in Easton).

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion on moving the summer music concerts from Shippen Manor to Bread Lock Park next year. It was noted that Shippen Manor is more central, but the hill is not ideal for a largely older crowd. Bread Lock Park is a more accessible site, and there is pressure to be more ADA compliant. The consensus was to consecutively hold half of the concerts at Shippen Manor and half at Bread Lock Park.

OUTREACH EVENTS:

The Phillipsburg-Easton Halloween Parade is Sunday, October 27. Mr. Charlton signed up the commissioners to walk in the parade. Ms. Rapisardi and Ms. White volunteered to decorate a car and drive in it again to represent BCHAB. Commissioner Ciesla asked Mr. Charlton to tell the parade organizers that the commissioners will have a car in the parade, so that the BCHAB car is lined up with them.

(Commissioner Ciesla left at 5:52pm.)

September 28 is Knowlton Community Day at Tunnel Field. Ms. Rosseland will be manning a table. She will also be at Alpha's Fall Fest on October 12, but is not available if they move it to their rain date of October 13.

Holly Luberto with the Public Information Dept. shared a flier for a local Square Dance on November 2 via e-mail. It would be a good opportunity to experience this type of event and decide if BCHAB would want to host one next year. Mr. Young suggested having a dance tent at Community Day where either square dancing or ballroom dancing could take place.

(Ms. White left at 5:58pm.)

Mr. Tierney said it is possible we could fund an event like this through an arts grant if an organization hosted it, perhaps at a local farm like Donaldson's or Brook Hollow Winery.

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

Ms. Rosseland was not present at this meeting, but provided a monthly report to the Committee.

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Ms. Rosseland was not present at this meeting, but provided a monthly report to the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held October 15, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Primerano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.