

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

January 16, 2008
3:30 pm

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Patricia Gale
Marianne Lods
Penny Watson
Freeholder Jane Christy

Suzanne Merighi
Flavia Alaya

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary
Jill Swartz, Project Specialist

Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2007 with corrections was made by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously. Flavia Alaya abstained from voting on the minutes.

New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office Seminar/Bob Craig Visit

Mr. Pisarski discussed the recent visit with Bob Craig of the State Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Craig spent the morning with Penny Watson visiting the West side of the County and then spent the afternoon with Mr. Pisarski visiting the Union House in Millville.

Ms. Watson mentioned they visited the Remington House in Roadstown and Red Brick Farm in Fairfield. Both homes are patterned-end brick structures. Ms. Watson stated the brick house farm has lost most of its interior integrity. Ms. Watson noted that Mr. Craig is looking for someone to do a national register nomination for the Red Brick Farm, but due to budget constraints, is looking for a volunteer. Mr. Pisarski mentioned the environmental community is very interested in the property and possibly someone like Matt Blake could volunteer.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the visit in the afternoon to the Union House. Mr. Pisarski has submitted, on behalf of Bob Francois of the Millville Historic Society, a preliminary application for register listing for the Union House. Mr. Francois gave Mr. Pisarski and Mr. Craig a full tour of the house. Mr. Craig suggested the period of significance was from 1750 to 1780, which was when the Union Company owned the property. Mr. Craig indicated there was significance and the Union House was eligible. Mr. Craig mentioned that Mr. Francois should concentrate his research efforts on that period of time, which hopefully will result in a formal nomination.

Mr. Pisarski noted Mr. Craig enjoyed his visit to Cumberland County. Mr. Craig asked Mr. Pisarski if there would be an interest in helping him to host a one-day seminar to be held in Cumberland County for people who are interested in nominating a building to the State and National Registers, but who have not done so in the past. Mr. Craig would be looking for a maximum of fifteen people, and would hope to bring in people from Atlantic, Cape May, Salem and Cumberland Counties. Mr. Pisarski stated he would be interested and the seminar could be held at the college. The seminar would not take place until early summer. Mr. Pisarski asked the Commission to consider suggestions for participants. Ms. Watson mentioned the Cohansey Baptist Church is interested. Ms. Gale asked Mr. Pisarski what the criteria would be for listing a historic property. Mr. Pisarski replied that typically a property needs to be fifty years old or older, and should have integrity related to the period of significance.

ADA Workshop – 2/20/2008

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the upcoming annual ADA Workshop with John McEwen, scheduled for February 20, 2008 at the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts (RRCA). The Commission is sharing the workshop with the Millville Arts District and the RRCA. Mr. Pisarski asked Mr. McEwen if he could concentrate on the other components to an ADA plan beyond the facility checklist. Re-grantees have questions regarding grievance procedures, a non-discrimination policy statements and other components of the ADA plan. The workshop will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

AIE Workshop

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the AIE (Artist in Education) Workshop, a program through the Council on the Arts, will be held on Wednesday February 6, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Wheaton Arts Conference Center. The Commission hosted a similar workshop in December 2006, which resulted in three applications from Cumberland County to this program, with two of them receiving funding awards. Mr. Pisarski noted that Amanda Newman-Godfrey, who runs this program at the State, stated the response was one of the best she has had from a workshop.

SHARED Services Grant Update

Mr. Pisarski provided in everyone's packet a proposed time line provided by Nancy Moses. Ms. Moses has a start date of March 3, 2008. Mr. Pisarski stated the time line is very aggressive with a final study date of May 23, 2008. Marianne Lods asked Mr. Pisarski what is required of the Commission. Mr. Pisarski replied to answer any questions Ms. Moses may have that Nancy will be meeting with the Commission and will have a series of questions, which will need to be answered.

Newsletter RFP for 2008

Mr. Pisarski provided a hand out to the Commission of a request for quotations. Mr. Pisarski stated the hand out is nearly identical to the e-mail that was sent to everyone with the only exceptions being the change from a proposal to a "quotation" and change of the due date to February 8, 2008. Mr. Pisarski noted, based on a comment he received from Jean Jones, the due date for the newsletter was moved back a week to give the Commission an additional week to try to make sure the newsletter is in everyone's hands by the first of the month.

A motion to release the RFP was made by Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.

BAP Kick-Off Meeting Recap

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Building Arts Participation meeting that was held last week. The three consultants came to Cumberland County and met with the five organizations that were approved to participate. Mr. Pisarski stated the meeting went extremely well. There were Chairs of every organization at the meeting. The five organizations were; The Jewish Federation, Off Broad Street Players, The Bayshore Discovery Project, Vineland Regional Dance Company and the Boys and Girls Club of Vineland.

Eagle Festival – 2/2/08

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the Eagle Festival, which will be held on February 2, 2008 at the Mauricetown Fire Hall. Jackie Sandro is on board for the kids table. Mr. Pisarski asked for volunteers for coverage at the tables. Marianne Lods asked Mr. Pisarski to send an e-mail with time slots for the members to sign up. The Eagle Festival begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

Other Old/New Business

Mr. Pisarski provided an invitation from Joan McAllister to the round table on Sunday January 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. The Commission was invited to attend. Mr. Pisarski stated he could not attend. Flavia Alaya indicated she would be attending, and Mr. Pisarski asked if she would represent the Commission.

Penny Watson discussed the findings of the Ferracute study. The study was on both the machine shop and office building. The workshop was primarily for the machine shop. The office building is not in as bad of shape as everyone first thought. The machine shop, where damaged by fire, is beyond repair and should be cut off from the rest of the building. In the short term, the building needs to be stabilized and the site needs to be secured so the building can be developed in a thoughtful manner. There was discussion of the possibility of immediate signage to be posted to allow the public to come and read what happened at the site.

Correspondence

Mr. Pisarski provided a hand out of the Bayshore Heritage Byway. Mr. Pisarski noted that Sharon Mollick from Planning and Development is the staff person who is facilitating the process. Suzanne Merighi asked Mr. Pisarski if the Byway fits into the Commission's Cultural Plan with the possibility of adding to it and achieving some of the Commission's goals. Mr. Pisarski replied in the affirmative, but as for the details, he does not have the answers as the Byway is in the very early stages. Mr. Pisarski noted a letter can be drafted from the Commission to the NJDOT pointing out the Cultural Plan, the parts of the plan, which would be affected by the scenic byway and make recommendations and suggestions.

Marianne Lods mentioned that the end of March is the National Main Street Conference, which this year is being held in Philadelphia. New Jersey and Pennsylvania are co-hosting the conference. Main Street Millville submitted to host a national tour in the downtown and was one of the towns in New Jersey awarded the privilege. The Main Street Millville Tour will be on Monday March 31, 2008 in the afternoon.

Mr. Pisarski mentioned Carol Nagao was pleased with the \$1,000.00 stipend for Teen Arts.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by

Marianne Lods. The motion was seconded by Patricia Gale and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.