

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 18, 2010  
3:30 pm

Freeholder meeting room in Bridgeton, NJ 08302

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

**Present:** Marianne Lods  
Roy Kaneshiki  
Suzanne Merighi  
Jean Jones  
Flavia Alaya  
Patricia Gale  
Ella Boykin  
Penny Watson  
John Garrison

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner  
Kim McCann, Recording Secretary

## **Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2010**

A motion to approve the minutes with one correction from April 20, 2010 was made by John Garrison. The motion was seconded by Ella Boykin and passed unanimously.

## **Encore Award Reception – May 26, 2010**

Mr. Pisarski said next Wednesday, May 26, 2010 will be this year's Encore Award reception. The newsletter that was released today highlights this year's award recipients.

## **Wharton Field Application Project – Millville Army Air Field Museum**

Mr. Pisarski provided a draft field application project description in everyone's packet. He is proposing the Commission include the attached historic district map to send to Penn so they can see it visually. Mr. Pisarski noted the application has been reviewed by Lisa Jester and the chair of their board and they are pleased with the application.

A motion to approve the language of the field application as written was made by

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

### **Southern Shore Music Festival – June 19, 2010**

Mr. Pisarski mentioned the upcoming Southern Shore Music Festival that will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds. He said as in year's past Bob Rose has provided free tickets to the Commission. If anyone is interested in tickets please let him know.

Marianne Lods commented that Mr. Rose is on Facebook with Southern Shore Music Festival and noted he has a few thousand fans and updates his page daily with video clips of the different performers. She feels with the main attractions this year the festival is really going to be quite successful.

### **June Commission Meeting Cancellation**

Mr. Pisarski mentioned he will be out of town on business the week of June 14, 2010 and said the meeting can be canceled or rescheduled. The Commission decided to cancel the June meeting. If there was any pressing business that needed to be addressed it could be handled electronically.

### **Cohansey Riverfest – August 28, 2010**

Mr. Pisarski said the committee for the Riverfest is moving forward. Flavia Alaya said they are trying to make this a coalition event with Bridgeton and other partners as a celebration of the river. She said some of the ideas they have come up with for the event are biking, hiking, kayaking, walking, running, eating and drinking along or on the river. Ms. Alaya noted there is already a website ([www.cohanseyriverfest.org](http://www.cohanseyriverfest.org)). There was only one submission for the logo contest, but was a very nice one. Ms. Alaya said if anyone would like to participate to please let her know. Mr. Pisarski said the committee is trying to build partnerships to reduce expenses. For instance, the American Littoral Society is going to do a bike tour, starting in Bridgeton and ending in Greenwich. Ms. Alaya noted Bridgeton Main Street is the umbrella sponsor for this event and Carola Hartley has been working on partnerships for this.

### **Liaison Reports**

Roy Kaneshiki noted the Obon Festival will be held this year on July 17, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. for the food and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the folk dancing.

Suzanne Merighi noted she spoke to Jean Edwards at the Cumberland County Library and they are doing a mural art project and are just getting started and she

would call Ms. Merighi when there is something to see. Ms. Merighi also attended the Upper Deerfield Township Community Day a couple weeks ago. It was located near the Township offices and said the weather was beautiful and the event was very well attended. She also mentioned that she and her husband went into the Seabrook Cultural Museum, and had never been there before and said how interesting it was.

Marianne Lods said she has been in touch with Vineland Regional Dance and they have just announced their summer classes, they had their major dance production in early spring and their fashion show fundraiser.

### **Other Old/New Business**

Mr. Pisarski asked Suzanne Merighi if there has been any discussion at the hospital foundation regarding the healing arts program. Ms. Merighi said she attended her first meeting on May 1, 2010 and there was a very brief mention of the program and said there would be more information forthcoming.

Mr. Pisarski provided a copy of the first quarter review of the Commission's budget. He reviewed the budget with everyone.

Suzanne Merighi asked how many hits the Commission's website gets a month. Mr. Pisarski responded he can get the exact number and let everyone know.

Roy Kaneshiki said he was asked at last month's Commission meeting to contact the Chair of Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission in reference to a joint venture for a house tour. He contacted Tom Mason and the response he got was their Commission would favor a joint historical tour and to please suggest a time everyone can meet to discuss this venture further. Mr. Kaneshiki made the suggestion to Mr. Pisarski in forming a sub-committee to look into the possibility of actual homes in Cumberland County and they can look into locations in Salem County. Mr. Kaneshiki noted a similar event was held in Union County, Four Centuries in a weekend and their website is [www.ucnj.org/cultural/fourcenturies/indexhtml](http://www.ucnj.org/cultural/fourcenturies/indexhtml). Mr. Pisarski said he would e-mail the website to everyone.

Flavia Alaya suggested considering going outside the Commission and selecting someone as a director. Mr. Pisarski asked Ms. Alaya if she had someone in mind and she responded yes. Ms. Alaya said this person is now from Bridgeton and was previously from Salem and is looking for the opportunity to bridge the two communities.

Penny Watson said she would volunteer to serve on the sub-committee and would act as the Commission's liaison.

Flavia Alaya mentioned a pet project of hers. She said Bridgeton has won a

planning grant to study the Nail House Museum. Bridgeton Main Street is doing a fundraiser on Sunday June 13, 2010, an afternoon garden party from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Ms. Alaya gave invitations to everyone on the Commission.

Penny Watson said the Bridgeton Library is now on the Preservation New Jersey's ten most endangered list. She attended the press conference this morning.

Marianne Lods attended the ground breaking ceremony for the Levoy Theatre this afternoon and they are estimating the opening to be a year from now.

Ella Boykin announced on June 14, 2010, the dance program showcase for the Boy's & Girl's Club will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Carl Author Center in Vineland.

Roy Kaneshiki asked if anything is going to be done with the Bridgekeeper's House. Penny Watson responded there should be a discussion on that tomorrow, but nothing has happened as of yet.

Patricia Gale mentioned the Landis Theatre is having their grand opening on Saturday May 22, 2010.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Pisarski provided everyone with a copy of a letter from Courtenay Reece of the Cumberland County Library thanking the Commission for making the trip possible for the kids on the A.J. Meerwald. The other is a letter from David Grennon of the Office on Aging thanking the Commission for sponsoring tickets for the senior citizens at the Bay-Atlantic Symphony performance on May 1, 2010.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.