

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

November 15, 2011

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 3:30 PM., in the upstairs conference room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present: Penny Watson Suzanne Merighi
 John Garrison Roy Kaneshiki
 Marianne Lods Patt Gale
 Jean Jones

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2011

A motion was made to approve the minutes from October 18, 2011 by Suzanne Merighi. The motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously. Marianne Lods abstained.

Building History Participation Project – Culminating Session 11/30/11

The four organizations that participated in the Building History Project were Mauricetown Historical Society, Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, Millville Army Air Field Museum and New Sweden. Matt Pisarski sent an email out to Commission members with the reports from the three consultants. The consultants all agreed that all four organizations have collections or missions that are unique. But the organizations have fundamental challenges with their governance. The consultants feel some organizations' missions are too broad or their bylaws have to be redone. Mr. Pisarski and the consultants discussed having a decision tree to help the organizations reevaluate their mission, bylaws and reassess their collections. The consultants asked what roll the Commission will play with helping the regrantees. It was suggested to create a tiered system. If a regrantee was at the top of the tier they would receive extra assistance. Ms. Watson asked if we offer them help what does the Commission get in return. Mr. Pisarski said there will be a 6, 12 and 24 month monitoring process. The organization would have to show progress if they want to keep receiving the additional assistance. Ms. Lods questioned how receptive the organizations will be to criticism. Ms. Merighi wanted to know where the extra money would come from. Mr. Pisarski said the money would come from the line item and he would have to reach out to the different associations and see what their group rates are for memberships. Patt Gale suggested offering a social media workshop for the regrantees. Mr. Pisarski proposed revamping the current workshops that the

Commission offers. Ms. Lods commented that there are free workshops that regrantees can attend. Ms. Merighi suggested reaching out to Keith Ragone who works with museums and historic society's on how to interpret their collections. Mr. Pisarski said on November 30th the four organizations will meet with the consultants to discuss the results and issues for each organization. Roy Kaneshiki will inform the regrantees that the Commission is here to help them and to announce the Commission's intent to provide additional benefits.

Nominations Committee

Ms. Watson, Ms. Gale and Ms. Lods have agreed to be on the nominations committee.

Liaison Reports

John Garrison attended the Bay Atlantic Symphony concert. He said it was well attended.

Mr. Kaneshiki and Jean Jones went to Bay Shore Discovery Project's second Friday. They said it was very well attended. Mr. Pisarski commented that the Commission is sponsoring their second Friday in December.

Mr. Garrison and Ms. Watson attended the CHABA awards. Ms. Watson received an award on behalf of Watson and Henry.

Ms. Gale asked how Disability Awareness day went. Mr. Pisarski said the Commission was the only non-medical group there. Fifty tickets were given out to attendees for the Bay Atlantic Symphony concert.

Ms. Lods informed the Commission that the Levoy had a successful Casino Night fundraiser at the Millville Airport.

Mr. Kaneshiki said oyster plates are on display at Clay College.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Gale passed out fliers for Footloose the musical.

Ms. Merighi asked when the grants review panel will meet. They will meet December 5th at 6pm. Mr. Pisarski said there are six history and 21 art regrantees.

Correspondence

The Commission has another historic review regarding sidewalks on highway 77. The Commission agreed the proposed work has no historic impact.

Mr. Pisarski sent a letter to Ms. Rappleye regarding Route 49/Buckshutem Road project.

Mr. Pisarski received a letter from The Levoy Theatre for a change of use in their regrant funding, which he approved.

Flavia Alaya sent a thank you letter to the Commission for the special project funding CHABA received.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 in the Freeholder Meeting Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey.