

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2001
3:30 PM

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: Penny Watson, Chairman
Joseph Polhamus
Mel Brody
Suzanne Merighi
Patricia Gale

Jennie Ayres, Long Range Plan Consultant
Steve Kehs, Planning & Development Exec. Dir.
Pam Griner, Sr. Planner
Kris Lemmonds, Temporary Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2001, at 3:30 PM., in the Conference Room of the Cumberland County Administration Building, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Penny Watson called the meeting to order and read the opening statement in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act.

Pam Griner called for approval of the November 13, 2001 minutes. A correction needed to be made to Appel Farms (s/b Appel Farm) from the prior month's minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mel Brody, seconded by Joe Polhamus and passed unanimously.

LONG RANGE PLAN REVIEW

Pam Griner introduced Jennie Ayres, Consultant for the Long Range Plan for Cultural and Heritage Commission. Several corrections were requested to be made to the Long Range Plan. A final copy of the Long Range Plan will be ready in January.

2002 FALL CONCERT - HARLEM BOYS CHOIR

Pam Griner announced tentative dates for this concert as of Saturday, Oct. 12, 2002. The estimated cost for this concert is to be around \$40,000.00. Ms. Griner still needs to gather a bit more information regarding this event. The members wanted the concert to be a holiday concert and want to get more information before taking a final vote on this matter. Due to the cost of the full choir Mel Brody asked if it was known what half a choir would cost. The members want to wait for Austin Gould to be in attendance and to include Tofanelli in the next month's scheduled meeting before making any final decision on this matter. A special project grant application is going to be submitted to the NJ State Council on the Arts. This application will request 1/2 of the concert cost.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Copies of two proposals received from Prestige Publications and Lee Tofanelli and Associates, Inc. were given out to each member in attendance. Penny Watson stated that she wants to see an example of work that Prestige Publications has done. Some of the figures on the proposals were brought into question by Mel Brody. Several points were brought up in regards to the information provided by each proposal:

- A question on whether the figures given by Prestige were based on a quarterly timetable.
- A question of whether distribution is worked into the given cost estimates was also brought up.
- A question of the number of copies actually needed was brought up by Ms. Griner.
- Having additional drop sites included in the proposal costs was brought up.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOOK PRESERVATION

Ms. Griner informed the members in attendance that upon receiving information from Penny Watson she contacted The Conservation for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. She spoke with Ann Downing from the Center. She informed the members that they would like to help in the restoration of the old books. The CCAHA would need someone to take the document to them and left and stored with them until they can get to the restoration. The Center may not be able to look at the document for 6 to 7 months. Ann's suggestion to the group was to come up with a plan regarding the restoration project. Ann estimated that the cost could \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Mel Brody inquired if that cost was for the complete restoration. Ms. Griner informed him that the cost was for the initial assessment for the restoration. Mel Brody did not think that the members should spend \$2,000.00 on an assessment until we could find someone that would be able to give the members an idea of how much a restoration project would cost before they spend the \$2,000.00. Penny Watson suggested that they ask the Baptist Church in Bridgeton that had some work done to get an idea on what it cost them. Steve Kehs inquired that if someone from the Commission were to travel to Philadelphia with the book and stayed with it for the day The Center could give them some preliminary guidance on how to proceed before any money is spent on this project. The members in attendance preferred that idea and made tentative plans to go to Philadelphia in January 2002.

HISTORICAL AGENCY REGRANTS

A \$20,000.00 grant was received from the NJ Historical Commission this year for regranting to historical agencies in the County. The grant was to be used for general operating support. Four proposals for regrants were received. The historical grant review board reviewed the submissions and made the following recommendations:

Jewish Historical Society	\$5,000.00
Maurice River Historical Society	\$2,965.00
Mauricetown Historical Society	\$9,035.00
Vineland Historical Society and Antiquarian Society	\$3,000.00

Patricia Gale made a motion to accept the regrant proposals as recommended by the grant review panel. Joe Polhamus seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION WEBSITE

Mel Brody stated that Sean Tomlin would be willing to do the Commission's website for free. He also stated that Sean could bring a mock up of the website. Mel suggested that Sean be given about five days to come up with a mock up for the website and view it right after the 1st of new year. A meeting was set for January 3 at Mel's home to meet with Sean. A sample website should be available at the January meeting.

LETTER FROM DR. L. WILLIS ALLEN re MILLVILLE PRES. CHURCH

A letter was received from Dr. L. Willis Allen asking for financial assistance (\$1,500.00) to help him bring the Princeton Choir to the Millville Presbyterian Church. Suzanne commented on the fact that proper channels for funding were not being followed. She was concerned that if this request was approved other organizations might do the same thing. Steve expressed the same concerns and suggested the members develop a process for handling these special requests. Mel Brody made a motion that this request be denied until proper channels were followed and an application is submitted. Pam stated that a group can be put together to discuss the process for applying for discretionary funds. Suzanne Merighi seconded the motion by Mel to deny this request and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Cultural and Heritage Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2002 at 3:30 PM at the County Administration Building.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM. Motion was made by Suzanne Merighi to adjourn and seconded by Joe Polhamus. The motion was approved by all present.