

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

**December 9, 2003
3:30 PM**

FREEHOLDER MEETING ROOM BRIDGETON

Present: Penny Watson Joe Polhamus
 Suzanne Merighi Jean Jones
 Mel Brody Judy Price

Freeholder Douglas Rainear
Pam Weintraub, Sr. Planner
Steve Kehs, Planning Director
Kris Lemmonds, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2003 at 3:30 PM., in the Freeholder Meeting Room, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Joe Polhamus to approve the minutes from November 2003. Motion was seconded by Suzanne Merighi and passed unanimously.

2004 Slate of Officers

Suzanne Merighi reported that the slate of officers selection has been completed. The following is the proposed slate of Officers for 2004:

Chair - Suzanne Merighi
Vice-Chair - Judy Price
Treasurer - Penny Watson
Secretary - Marianne Lods

Joe Polhamus made a motion to accept the 2004 Cultural and Heritage Officers. Jean Jones seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Proposed 2004 Meeting Dates

Ms. Weintraub informed the board that Austin Gould had been elected as the Cumberland County College Board of Trustees President. This is a 1 year term. The meeting day and time conflict with the C&H Commission. Ms. Weintraub began a discussion regarding changing the meeting day from the second Tuesday of each month to the third of each month to accommodate Austin. After brief discussion there did not appear to be a conflict with anyone. The dates were then changed from the second Tuesday of each month to the third of each month. Ms. Weintraub will confirm the dates with Mr. Gould.

Cultural Plan Update

Thanks to the \$15,000.00 received from the SJ Economic Development District and the \$6,500.00 in the Cultural and Heritage funds account, the consultant to prepare the Cultural Plan can be hired. The consultant will conduct public hearings, surveys, perform public outreach on behalf of the board. They would also conduct studies regarding funding issues and develop funding strategies. They will also be looking at the Economic Development of the Arts to generate funds.

Raptor Festival Art Contest

The Cumberland County Raptor Festival will be held on Feb. 7, 2004. Two children's days will be held the week before the Raptor Festival on the 29th and 30th of January 2004.

Ms. Weintraub asked the board if the Cultural and Heritage Commission would be interested in sponsoring the prizes again this year for the Art Contest. The board unanimously accepted the proposal.

Old Business

County Record Book - update

Ms. Weintraub reported that the county record books are one step closer to being preserved. Mr. Gray has approved the books being moved to Philadelphia for the treatment, if a copy of the books are in the County. After speaking with Mr. Katz at the preservation group, the best way to do this is digital photography. Digital photographs will be made of the County Book so a record remains here for referral. Once the digital photos are done the County Book can be restored.

New Business

Joe Polhamus brought in a copy of the Revolutionary War in SJ book. He wanted to obtain a list of addresses for the County Library, school libraries and Historical Society to distribute the book. The author of the book has offered to give the board 20-25 copies.

Penny Watson voiced a concern that the Indian Head Burial site was being considered as an historic site, but no input from the Cultural and Heritage Commission was sought. Ms. Watson was concerned that the County was more interested in development of the area rather than the protection of the site. Mr. Kehs explained that the letter submitted by the County was not one in opposition, but one that raised some legitimate issues beyond the historic merit of the property, that the County feels needs to be addressed if the nomination moved forward. Mr. Kehs said he would forward a copy of the Freeholder Director's letter to the Commission members.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2004 in County Freeholders Conference Room in Bridgeton, NJ. A motion to adjourn was made by Suzanne Merighi. Motion was seconded by Penny Watson and passed unanimously.