

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**October 13 , 1998**

**3:30 P.M.**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**Present:**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Jean Jones   | Joseph Polhamus |
| Austin Gould | Penny Watson    |
| Susan Gogan  | Mel Brody       |

Freeholder Chuck Griffiths

Kim Wood, Director  
Nancy Cannone, Acting Secretary

The meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission was called to order on Tuesday, October 13, 1998, at 3:30 p.m., in the Freeholder Meeting Room, County Administration Building, by Chairperson Penny Watson.

The Chairperson called for approval of the Minutes of September 8, 1998. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Joe Polhamus, seconded by Austin Gould, and passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TOWN MEETING:** Director Wood thanked Commission members for attending the "Town Meeting on September 15, 1998. She stated that the meeting was very successful and those who attended were a true, representation of the art community in Cumberland County and were there because they care what happens to the arts in Cumberland County.

**CHILDREN'S OPERA:** "Little Red Riding Hood" by "Opera on the Go" was held on Saturday, October 3, 1998, at the Performing Arts Center at the County College. This event was attended by 260 children, and their parents. The Director reported that the children seemed to totally enjoy the program especially when cast members really got the children into the program by coming into the audience dancing with the children and when little red riding hood drew strawberry's on some of the children's faces. While this was not a packed house, it will grow over the years. The Opera company loved the theater and is eager to come back.

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:** The Director spoke with Pat Gale this morning who stated that the event was a huge success. Ms. Gale reported that the CCC&HC photo display was a big hit. Jean Jones reported that the

display was set up right outside of the municipal where everyone was coming and going from, and the people really seemed to enjoy the paintings. Mrs. Wood reported that part of the display started to get damaged, and Ms. Gale repaired it. Director Wood suggested that perhaps we should find a way to protect the pieces either by lamination, or a piece of acrylic. Jean stated that if we are going to continue to use the exhibit, which will not date itself and we should preserve it. Mel Brody suggested that the Commission use this display at all its major functions.

CONTRACTS FOR FY 99 FUNDING: Mrs. Wood reported that the contracts for the funding for FY 99 have been submitted. The narrative for the \$45,000 funding for Vineland Public Schools is in the Commissioners folders. The Director met with Jane Brant, Chairperson of the Landis Middle School Historical Committee on Wednesday October 7, 1998 toured their theater, told her about some of the events proposed, and assured her that we would want to use the theater.

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP: This Workshop will be held in Cumberland County on November 4, 1998, hosted by the CCC&HC. It is scheduled to be held in the Freeholders room, but Mrs. Wood would like to see it held in the theater at the Landis Middle School. However their newsletter has already gone out, and it may not be possible to change the location. Chairperson Penny Watson commented that it was "sort of a miracle to get the Historical Commission down to Cumberland County." Director Wood remarked that more and more people seem to be interested in Cumberland County and what we have to offer.

MULTI-CULTURAL OPERA: This opera will be held Saturday, October 17, 1998 at the Performing Arts Center of the County College. This event is sold out. The dinner starts at 6:00 P.M., followed by the opera.

CEMETERY TOUR: Penny Watson reported that the bus tour is "sold out". The bus holds 48 people and 15 are on the waiting list. The question was asked as to whether another bus could be used. Mrs. Watson said that this was not feasible as the tour leader will be giving a lot of background on the bus while it is moving from one location to the next. There are 14 cemetery's scheduled to be visited. Mrs. Wood stated that she has had many people approach her who would also be interested in such a tour. Jean Jones commented that as this was such a popular tour, perhaps next year the CCC&HC could sponsor. Members thought this would be a good project, if the Historical Society would run the tour, with the CCC&HC funding it. Jean Jones made a motion that the Commission sponsor a cemetery tour next year, organized by the Historical Society and funded by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Austin Gould and passed unanimously. Mrs. Watson commented that to prevent people from registering and then not showing up, a \$10.00 check was required upon registering, the money being refunded on the day of the tour. Susan Gogan suggested that perhaps an evaluation sheet could be given out during the tour.

ARTIST DIRECTORY: Director Wood reported that the Artist Directory is almost complete, and the quotes for printing came in lower than she had anticipated. The Director expects the Directory to be completed by the beginning of November. Chairperson Watson asked what the cost of the overall Directory was, and Mrs. Wood replied about \$2,000. for 1,000 copies. Jean Jones suggested that these Directory's could be given as handouts as CCC&HC events. Susan Gogan suggested copies of the Directory be sent out to other counties.

### NEW BUSINESS:

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER: Mrs. Wood passed around to members an insert in the Sunday, September 27th Philadelphia Inquirer for Arts & the Humanities Month, listing all of the South Jersey arts organizations, showing Cumberland County's ad. She also pointed out an article written by Mary McKee of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance on a cultural tour that she and her spouse along with Mrs. Wood and her spouse, took in Cumberland County.

TOWN MEETING ISSUES: The Director listed the following two items as the main issues that came out of the Town Meeting:

Better coverage of events: The main concern was getting more support for events from the news media - including radio, television, and newspapers.

Mel Brody reported that he had a meeting with the new editor, Charles Nutt, of the Daily Journal. The first thing he noticed was that "nothing was going on in the community," or he reads about events after they have happened. Mr. Knight is anxious to work with the Commission to correct this problem. He suggested setting up a County Workshop, using the CCC&HC along with the Daily Journal to bring in all the groups interested and teach them how to get their information out ahead of time. Mr. Knight also expressed interest in setting up a special section on Fridays to run what's going on weekends, etc.. Mr. Brody indicated that he believed that the Commission could get good participation from the groups that are sponsored by the CCC&HC.

Mr. Brody also stressed to the editor that groups wanted to take the money and put it into the performance, not spend it on advertising, and that groups need the newspapers to do that. Mrs. Wood stated that we want newspapers to support the arts, and these kinds of notices are a way they can do that without costing themselves money.

The CCC&HC secretary suggested that perhaps once a year the Commission could take pictures of each of the events sponsored during the year, along with write-ups, and publish them in an issue of the newsletter. This could be used as handouts at different events, and could also be used as a economic development tool.

RICHARD AYARS MANUSCRIPT: Director Wood reported on a manuscript given to her by Mr. Ayars. Mr. Ayars wanted to know if the Commission had any interest in doing something with this work. After a general discussion it was agreed that he should come to the next Grant Writing Workshop and apply for his own grant.

CHILDREN'S BOOK: Mrs. Wood reported that she had nothing to report on the book at this meeting, but would have a report for the November 10th meeting.

TIME CAPSULE: Mel Brody asked the members to give some thought about what the Commission could put into a time capsule and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Cannone,  
Acting Secretary