

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Notice Act, Chapter 231, PL 1975 by Acting President Rory Britt.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Commissioners: Robert Bouwman, Rory Britt, Don Esposito, Kathy Faulks, Phyllis Fittipaldi, Dennis Quinlan, Ann Osterdale Rosenblum, Edwin Scannell, Peter Stavrianidis

Staff: Walter Lane, Thomas D'Amico, Kaitlin Bundy, Natalie Zaman

Others in attendance: Robert Barth, Sean Blinn, Brian Faulks, Brad Fay, Robert Fazen, Jessie Havens, Hilary Klimek, Kathleen Palmer, Ray Sanderson, Marge Sullivan

IV. Election of Officers

Nominating Committee: Rory Britt, Don Esposito, Kathy Faulks reported the slate of nominees.

President: Donald Esposito; Vice-President: Rory Brit; Treasurer: Phyllis Fittipaldi; Secretary: Kathy Faulks. No nominations from the floor.

Motion to confirm the slate made by Robert Bouwman and seconded by Ann Osterdale Rosenblum. Passed.

V. Approval of February 5, 2020 Minutes

Correction: date of next meeting should be corrected from Mar 4 to Feb 5.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended made by Robert Bouwman and seconded by Phyllis Fittipaldi. Passed.

VI. Correspondence

Kaitlin Bundy noted that the correspondence and flyers for upcoming events were sent out electronically in a packet with the C&H Agenda and minutes. A hard copy of the correspondence and flyers is available in a folder for review.

Tom D'Amico received notice from the NJDEP-Historic Preservation Office (HPO) that the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Harlingen Historic District, in Montgomery has been completed. A copy of the Nomination Form was sent to the County from the HPO. It was prepared by architectural historian Clifford Zink. The nomination will be reviewed by the New Jersey Historic Sites Council in Trenton at their March 26 meeting.

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

VII. Reports, Old & New Business

President Donald Esposito made the following appointments to Committees with the first person called as the chair. Don and Kaitlin Bundy will establish the committee meeting schedule.

By-laws Committee:

To review and make recommend changes, if need be to the bylaws. Further to present their report to the commission before being submitted to county consul for review. To that end the following are appointed to the committee.

Ann, Bob, Rory, Don

Finance Committee:

To develop, with staff, the yearly budget and oversee the allocations of funds. Further to review the budget and make timely reports to the commission.

Phyllis, Bob, Rory

Historic Sites Committee:

All nominations for the New jersey and National Registers of historic Places shall be forwarded to this committee; in turn this committee shall investigate the nominees prior to the commission meetings so the commission can render an informed opinion.

Kathy, Bob, Ned, Dennis

Arts Committee:

To provide ideas for new projects and provide guidance, if need be, for current projects and to aid the Cultural and Heritage staff for arts-based projects.

Rory, Bob, Dennis, Ned

Weekend Journey:

To develop and carry out plans for the Weekend Journey Through the Past

Bob, Kathy

Place Names Committee:

To continue to ascertain early place names of areas and communities within Somerset County and to aide staff in this endeavor.

Rory

Awards Committee:

The Awards Committee is charged with reviewing, with staff, all applications and make recommendations to the commission of award winners.

Kathy, Bob

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The following reports were made by Tom D'Amico:

Historic Preservation Grant Program

Tom D'Amico stated that the County has received the contracts for four of the six 2019 Historic Preservation Grant Program projects. The four that we have received so far have been paid their initial bill when the County's books open up in January 2020. Application for the 2020 Historic Preservation Grant Program will go out on Friday and will be due to Friday, April 24th.

Historic Marker Program

Tom has been in contact with Warren Township and the Raritan Public Library to set up field meetings for the Kirch-Ford-Terrill House and the General John Frelinghuysen House (Raritan Public Library) in Raritan. We have dates that are good for the County Traffic Division and the C & H Commission.

Historic Preservation Plan

Tom has finished reviewing the first four chapters of the Historic Preservation Plan. All comments by staff will be transmitted to Heritage Strategies by next week. We plan to have a Steering Committee meeting. Tom stated that he will be beefing up the section on the American Revolution due to its importance.

County Historic Preservation Projects

Tom stated that all of the leaded glass for all five doors has been restored and installed in the Jury Assembly Room by Leo Art Glass Studio in the former First Dutch Reformed Church in Somerville, now the Jury Assembly Room. This includes the Plexiglas type covering for each window. The work on the large stained-glass window may begin in late February. He will try to get images of the removal and reinstallation of the large stained-glass windows.

Other

Tom D'Amico showed the work he has completed on the 18th century Place Name Map project and a number of the maps he has used as sources. He stated that he has come up with 40 18th century place names so far.

The following reports were made by Kaitlin Bundy:

Local Arts Program Grant

2019 Grant: The 2019 final report was submitted to the State Arts Council.

2020 Grant: Contracts from the seventeen 2020 LAP re-grantees are being reviewed and sent to the Freeholder Director for signature the contracts are finalized.

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

2020 Census

C&H Staff have scheduled a series of cultural events and micro events to take place throughout February, March, April, and May. The cultural events are part of series we are calling "Culture Counts" and are focused in our hard to count communities within the county. C&H Staff passed around a list of event dates and will send out an email to the Commission if anyone is interested in volunteering or being present at any of the events to support the Commission.

Technical Assistance Workshop

The Commission will be hosting a technical assistance workshop on Insurance for Non-Profit Organizations on February 11th at 10:00am led by New Jersey Risk Managers.

Weekend Journey through the Past

C&H Staff has scheduled a meeting of past, present and potential future Weekend Journey Participants to take place on February 13, 2020. This meeting will give participants the opportunity to discuss the current program (going into its 15th year), and voice any concerns going forward. C&H Staff will compile the notes from this meeting, discuss them with the Weekend Journey Committee and bring the final suggestions back to the Commission.

The following reports were made by Natalie Zaman:

County History Partnership Program Grant

2019 Grant: The 2019 Final Report was submitted to the New Jersey Historical Commission and was accepted.

2020 Grant: Contracts from the nine 2020 CHPP re-grantees are being reviewed and sent to the Freeholder Director for signature they're finalized.

C&H Gallery

Currently on display through March 5th is "Ukrainian Folk Art from the Ukrainian History and Education Center" (a CHPP and LAP Re-grantee and they will be doing 2 workshops for us for the Census).

Teen Arts

- The 2020 Somerset County Teen Arts Festival will take place on Wednesday May 13th
- School applications are due on February 19th
- So far 27 Artists have been engaged
- The more volunteers we have the more smoothly the festival runs! Volunteers will need to be fingerprinted. When we last checked prints were good for 5 years. Natalie will send a list of all past volunteers to the Sheriff's Office to confirm eligibility. A Teen Arts volunteer sign-up sheet will be passed around at our next meeting—please consider volunteering!

VIII. Open Meeting to the Public

Motion to open the meeting to the public made by Don Esposito and seconded by Robert Bouwman. Passed.

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

IX. Announcements: Next meeting - Wednesday, March 4th, 2020.

1. Kathy Palmer announced "Art Fair 14C" Jersey City Hyatt Regency Feb 21-23, 2020 artfair14c.com
Also "Valentine's Celebration of Wine & Sweets" Feb 14 5-8pm www.studio7artgallery.com
2. Sean Blinn announced that he will be administering Instagram for JH Museum Studios the week of April 12 and wants to highlight the historic sites of Somerset County.
3. Marge Sullivan noted that the Ukrainian Heritage Center will be hosting workshops to make Ukrainian Pysanka (eggs); Sun March 22 11am and Tues. March 24 5pm www.ukrhec.org. Also: Heritage Trail Middlebrook Five Generals Bus Tour, Sunday, February 16, 2020 www.htanj.org.
4. Kathy Faulks announced Tory Jack Day at the Abraham Staats House, Saturday, February 8, 2020 10:30am-1:30pm Joe Becton presents "Nothing But the Blues" www.staatshouse.org. Also, the 2020 Lecture Series: "An Evening with the Baron" at the Abraham Staats House., Saturday, March 28, 2020 funded in part by a CHPP grant. www.staatshouse.org.
5. Ray Sanderson announced that he is applying for a NJ Historic Trust grant to fund restoration of a cemetery; it requires a 40% match. www.njht.org

X. Adjournment

A motion made by Robert Bouwman and seconded by Rory Britt to adjourn the meeting. Passed. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Faulks, Secretary

REMINDER: Doing our best to go paperless... If you need a copy of the agenda or the official minutes of the SCC&HC meeting, please print a personal copy for your own reference and bring it with you to the meeting. Your consideration is appreciated.