

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Treasurer Epsey Farrell, Secretary T.C. McCourt, John Dunado, Marty Kane, Joe Macasek, Amery Vasso, Carol Barkin; Director Peg Shultz, Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan, History Program Development Specialist Nick Palatucci

Absent/Excused: None

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library and via WebEx at 9:33 a.m. Chair Murphy read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes, as submitted, from the January 12, 2021, reorganization meeting. Commissioner Vasso abstained from the vote.

Financial Report: We continue to operate under the temporary budget. The only expenses since the last meeting were related to mailings. A final budget is expected in early spring. A few book orders were filled.

Chair's Report: Chair Murphy spoke about the new county entrance markers.

County Commissioner's Report: None

Director's Report: General administrative tasks continue; the office remains closed to outside visitors. Director Shultz is maintaining temperature logs as required by the state. All office computers have been equipped with cameras and microphones to facilitate the virtual meetings, now required to be held via WebEx. This will continue until further notice. The microfilm color add-on has been installed.

Archives Report: Ms. Hefferan is working on multiple private and county-related research inquiries via phone and email. She also has continued to work on the re-housing of the collection.

Public Programs Report: Mr. Palatucci was instrumental in setting up the WebEx account for the Commission's use. He has begun to finalize the 2021 re-grant packet, which will be uploaded to the website by February 12. Two of the three grant reviewers have been secured; the third reviewer is being finalized.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Archives:** None
- **Grants/Re-Grants:** The guidelines and application for the 2021 re-grant cycle are being finalized and will be posted online.
- **Long Range Plan:** A major revision is required, upon which work will begin soon.
- **Marker Program:** The first county entrance marker has been received. Coordination will begin with the county once installation is feasible.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Public Programs/Exhibits:** Now that the WebEx account has been set up, the goal is to utilize this for our 50th-anniversary programming.
- **Publications:** The next newsletter, which is largely ready to go, is tentatively scheduled to be completed by March 15. Director Shultz will write an article involving the re-grant program. Chair Murphy will be writing an article about the new entrance markers. Commissioner Barkin offered to write the Commissioners' Corner article, which will focus on the programming and documentation initiatives of local history organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communication: Newsletters were received from the Canal Society, Dover Historical Society, and Madison Historical Society.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned without objection at 10:34 a.m.

The next Heritage Commission meeting will be held via WebEx on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

T.C. McCourt, Secretary