

**Morris County Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023**

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Treasurer Epsey Farrell, and Secretary Martha Wells; HC Commissioners John Dunado, Tom Ferguson, Marty Kane, Joe Macasek; Director Amanda Hefferan and History Program Development Specialist Nick Palatucci

Absent/Excused: HC Commissioner Carol Barkin

Call to Order: Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:34 a.m. and referenced the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the November 2023 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Director Hefferan reported that money from the Special Projects line item of the Expenditure Budget was used for materials for marker maintenance and fourth quarter postage. The budget for 2023 has been spent down with about \$2000.00 left at the end of the year.

Chair's Report: Chair Murphy reported that December had been fairly quiet.

County Commissioner's Report: None

Director's/Archive Collection Report: Director Hefferan reported that the archives are open to researchers by appointment and questions are also being answered by phone or email. In 2024 the Prosecutor's Office will be celebrating their 100th anniversary, and are being helped with researching the history of the department. The Fall 2023 newsletter is at the printer and will be mailed out soon. HC has received the CHPP Grant award for the 2024 re-grant cycle. The marker for the First Baptist Church of Morristown has been ordered and will be installed in the spring. A marker for the Peter Cook House is being drafted. HC staff will help host a meeting on January 11 at 1:00pm for the Morris County Alliance for Heritage Tourism, focused on the 250th anniversary celebration. This meeting will be open to local history organizations for networking and discussion of ideas for 250th celebration plans. The staff is working on an exhibit of *Winter in Morris County*. The staff attended this year's NJHC Annual Conference *Unfinished Revolution : New Perspectives on the American Revolution in New Jersey*. New library signage that includes the Heritage Commission has been installed. The County Commissioners' Holiday gathering was attended by Director Hefferan and HC Commissioners Wells and Macasek. County offices will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

Program Development Report: History Program Development Specialist Palatucci reported that re-grants for 2023 are being wrapped up, with final reports from grantees due by December 20. The Heritage Commission's final report to the state is due by January 30, 2024. The Heritage Commission has received their 2024 CHPP Grant award letter and will be receiving \$51,000.00 for the 2024 re-grant cycle. The draft for the text for the Peter Cook House marker is being finalized.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Archives:** None
- **Grants/Re-Grants:** None
- **Long-Range Plan:** None
- **Marker Program:** Revision of the Peter Cook House marker is being drafted.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Public Programs/Exhibits:** None
- **Publications:** Articles for the spring newsletter were discussed.

Communications : Newsletters were received from the Dover Area Historical Society, the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum, and the Boonton Historical Society.

Old Business: None

New Business: There was discussion about happenings at various historical sites in Morris County including Glen Alpin in Harding, the log house recently discovered in Hibernia, the restoration of the fountain at Lake Hopatcong, and Camp Jefferson (formerly Camp Clifton) in Jefferson Township.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned without objection at 10:46.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. via Webex.

Respectfully submitted,

**Martha Wells
Secretary**