

Morris County Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 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 9:45 a.m. and referenced the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the corrected October 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Director Hefferan reported that the budget accounts have been spent down as the end of the year approaches. There will be a final adjustment to the travel account after staff members attend the NJHC Annual Conference in Trenton. About \$1500.00 remains in the Special Projects account. This will cover the marker for the First Baptist Church of Morristown, a county entrance marker, as well as giveaways for events. The HC graphic file was updated and a new logo was agreed upon.

Chair's Report: Chair Murphy reported that she had attended the Armistice/Veterans Day program on November 6 at the Morris County Public Library. It was presented by Erik L. Burro and highlighted the variety of WWI monuments in Morris County.

County Commissioner's Report: None

Director's/Archive Collection Report: Director Hefferan reported that staff activities had been focused on markers, re-grants, and various office work. Archives are open to researchers by appointment and questions can be answered by phone or email. The last two entrance markers will be installed in the spring. Director Hefferan attended the meeting of the new Morris County Alliance for Heritage Tourism hosted at the County Library. Attending organizations discussed goals for MCAHT. The next meeting will be open to township and history organizations. The HC exhibit cases will feature *Winter in Morris County* until the new year. The staff will be attending the NJHC Annual Conference, *Unfinished Revolution: New Perspectives on the American Revolution in New Jersey*. County offices will be closed November 23 and 24.

Program Development Report: History Program Development Specialist Palatucci reported that all re-grant site visits have been completed and the 20%

payment vouchers will be sent out upon receipt of final reports. Re-grantee final reports are due by December 20. The final HC report will be submitted to the state in January.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Archives:** The staff took Morris County Administration Deena Leary and Assistant County Administrator Brian Murray on a tour of the HC archives. They were able to point out the importance of document management, including organization, care, and safety procedures.
- **Grants/Re-Grants:** None
- **Long-Range Plan:** The revival of the Morris County Alliance of Heritage Tourism begins to fulfill the MCHC Long Range Plan, V) Goals and Plan, C) Initiative- 250th Anniversary Planning.
- **Marker Program:** The wording for the First Baptist Church of Morristown marker was decided. The marker will be ordered soon. The text for the Peter Cook House marker is being worked on.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Public Programs/Exhibits:** None
- **Publications:** Fall 2023 newsletter is complete, except for photo captions.

Communications: The Madison Historical Society Newsletter, the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey, and the Morris County Tourism Guide were received.

Old Business: None

New Business: Commissioner Macasek reported the discovery of a log cabin that was found within a building Hibernia. Commissioner Kane reported that during the drawdown of Lake Hopatcong, a sunken steamship was revealed. It is probably from 1907 or 1910.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned without objection at 11:10.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Morris County Library

Respectfully submitted,

**Martha Wells
Secretary**