

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of September 9, 2014
DRAFT

Present: Chairman Larry Fast and Commissioners Esey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Joyce Kanigel, Joseph Macasek, Miriam Morris, Kathy Murphy, Elliott Ruga, Archivist/Acting Director Margaret Shultz and Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo

Absent: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika

Call to order: Chairman Larry Fast called the meeting to order at the County Cultural Center at 9:42 a.m. He read the Open Meeting Statement.

Freeholder Report: Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo thanked commission members for visiting the prospective locations to house the Heritage Commission. The current selection has been narrowed to the former food pantry and the Berkshire Valley school house. Freeholder DeFillippo had recused herself from discussions because of conflict of interest regarding Berkshire Valley. The food pantry is in the long range plan for rehabilitation, but the necessary funding is in question. Freeholder DeFillippo has advised that budgeting for archival shelving, moving costs and additional staffing should be kept separate from rehabilitation costs. Cathy Burd is developing the comparative estimates, which will be reviewed by the Facilities Committee, which meets once a month.

The current goal is to make the move in 2015.

Chairman Fast explained that the archives are subject to an out of date index system and are in scattered storage locations. They need to be located in a single facility and updated. Because moving is potentially damaging to fragile archival material, the lease for the archives would ideally be for forty years. The move and long term maintenance require extra (credentialed) staffing. Acting Director Shultz explained that the staffing budget includes two members, but only one has been approved since 2009. Acting Director Shultz asked for advice on how to proceed with the 2015 budget: she would normally receive instructions at this time. Freeholder DeFillippo will consult with Freeholder Krickus. Freeholder DeFillippo recommended that Chairman Fast communicate with Cathy Burd. She would also seek opportunities for commission members to speak directly to individual freeholders.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ruga, Freeholder DeFillippo requested names of two counties that are good models for archival care: Archivist Shultz suggested Hunterdon and Middlesex. Both have full archival and record centers.

Acting Director Shultz requested help in accessing the fax machine and microfilm reader room. She also has no voicemail, all of which impedes her work.

Freeholder DeFillippo left at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes: the minutes for July 11, 2014 were approved as presented.

Financial Report: Kathy Murphy. The MCHC budget balance dated September 1, 2014 was attached to the package for September 9, 2014. The spending is on target except for the special project funding which is being held pending decisions on the move.

Chairman's Report: attached to the meeting package for September 1, 2014

- Chairman Fast elaborated on the proposed documentary on the development of the Jetport at Port Authority.

Office Report: attached to the meeting package for September 1, 2014.

- Acting Director Shultz mentioned that the 'red rot' is appearing over at Morris View.
- She is approaching a post doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University regarding the tacky laminated material.

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- The Commission has received road returns and project plans some of which are larger than legal size.
- Acting Director Shultz is still consulting on the location for the refurbished Chatham marker.

Committee reports:

Archives: Kathy Fisher, Chair.

See Archivist/Acting Director's report. No further report

Grants/Re-grants: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

See Archivist/Acting Director's report.

Long-Range Plan: Epsey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Co-Chairs

There has been no further action on the plan. Work will begin in late fall.

Marker program: Kathy Fisher, Chair

- Kinnelon Butternut Tree: the report has been received and reviewed. It has been decided to leave the sign as is, because L'Ecole is not eligible for a marker at this time, because it is not on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Commissioner Fisher mentioned that the marker for Ayres Knuth has been defaced, but that the Commission has not received an application for a replacement.
- There has been a question from the North American Revolutionary War Round Table regarding Rochambeau's Trail and where to place a marker.

Personnel: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

The mid term review was processed: see chairman's report.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

There was discussion of the possibility of hosting a Morris Canal Greenway program.

Publications: Elliott Ruga, Chair

See Archivist/Acting Director's report.

Old Business

No items

New Business

- Chairman Fast reminded the commissioners that they had agreed to start the reelection process in September. Commissioner Ruga will email the commissioners for volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee.
- Commissioner Fisher will check Robert's Rules about when to present the slate.
- Commissioner Farrell and Macasek offered to continue as commissioners.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Morris, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Friday, October 10, 2014** at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.