

**Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of April 13, 2010**

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Dave Bogert, Epsey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Henry Kafel, Tracy Kinsel, Karen Ann Kurlander, Virginia Vogt, James Woodruff; archivist Peg Shultz; Freeholder liaison Jim Murray.

Absent: Intern Kiersten Fuchs.

The meeting was called to order at the Morris County Cultural Center at 9:36 a.m. by Mr. Fast. The Open Meeting statement was read.

Minutes: March minutes were read and approved.

Financial report, Mr. Kinsel. We have been spending only moderately. We expect the budget to be approved by the Freeholders on April 14. A discussion of part-time hiring prospects ensued -- it is hoped Ms. Fuchs can stay on during the summer.

Freeholder's report, Freeholder Murray. A public hearing on the county budget will take place tomorrow (4/14). The Freeholders want to balance costs versus maintaining service levels. Layoffs have been avoided, though staff has been reduced 15% by attrition. There is a bill in the state legislature to change "Freeholder" to "Commissioner." He opposes this change, and will keep an eye on the bill's progress. There is some interest in Greystone by a private entity seeking to renovate it. Since the state owns it, they control its fate. Though it's very eligible it's still not the Register of Historic Places.

Chairman's report, Mr. Fast. The highlight of March was the very successful Archival Practices workshop on March 3, co-sponsored by the Washington Township Historical Society. Thanks to the many commissioners who helped.

He attended two meetings of the Long Range Planning committee on March 18 and March 25. A finished document is expected soon. He also attended a campaign appearance by three Freeholder primary candidates (incumbent Freeholders Murray, Schrier, and Cabana) in the flood zone near the Passaic River in Stirling. It was gratifying to hear their commitment to land and historic preservation. He spoke to Freeholder Schrier the next morning concerning some grant issues.

The Morris County Administration contacted and worked directly with Senator Codey's office on our behalf re: the Greystone bill, which has now been revised to create a seat for the Heritage Commission on the proposed task force. Senator Codey's office has also been made aware of the resources offered by the Heritage Commission. The bill remains in committee.

The bi-county replacement of the White Bridge Road pony truss bridge across the Passaic River at Millington is under way, the last surviving such bridge on a public road in the Great Swamp. Mr. Fast met with Steve Hammond at county engineering to confirm that the historically appropriate replacement design he had helped negotiate with Somerset County engineering would in fact be installed. The replacement bridge being constructed is contextually successful and historically sensitive. His full report is attached.

Office report, Ms. Shultz. She continued to be busy managing administrative, clerical, and archival responsibilities. She continued to assist the planning and development department with their GIS project relating to cemeteries, veterans, and veterans burial locations. The County Library is asking for help with a list of veteran's 18th c. to Vietnam. Intern Kiersten Fuchs assisted with the newsletter index project and is learning how to assist researchers with their requests.

There was a little water in the "A" Room from the heavy spring rains, but Park Commission staff was able to remove it quickly.

Indexing and scanning of all available newsletter editions back to 1977 has been completed and the files given to the IT Web staff. Expect to see all editions of the *Heritage Review/County Circular* online in a searchable format by mid-summer (if not sooner).

Site visit letters were prepared and sent to grant recipients. Most site visits will be held in April with one in May.

A program based on the Exceptional Women of Morris County exhibit prepared for the Madison Women's Thursday Morning Club was given April 8. About 65 ladies attended. Her full report is attached.

Subcommittee reports

Archives: Larry Fast. Covered in office report.

Grants/Re-grants: Dave Bogert. Covered in office report.

Long Range Planning: Kathy Fisher & Jim Woodruff. The LRP subcommittee met on March 18 and 25 with the commissioners to obtain ideas, tasks, and plans for the various committees. A proposed PR committee is on hold, and a proposed Finance Committee's tasks will be included in those of the Executive Committee. These ideas were documented and inserted in the plan for completion in years 2011 -- 2015. The LRP subcommittee is now reviewing the mission and goals in conjunction with the LRP tasks. There will be another all-hands meeting April 22 for final review.

Marker Program: Kathy Fisher. No new business to report.

Personnel: Henry Kafel. The committee needs a job description for the proposed part-time position.

Publications: Karen Ann Kurlander. No new business to report.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Virginia Vogt. Last month's program, Practical Tips for the Care of Historical Documents, was very well received, with nearly 100 attendees coming from Morris and many surrounding counties. Ms. Shultz is preparing a program for the Madison Thursday Morning Women's Club on April 8. The "10 Most" nominations are due at the end of April; the nomination form is on the MCHC website. A release will go out in May.

Communications: "Thank you" to Ms. Shultz from Valarie Scannel for genealogy help. There were two press clips about the "10 Most" program; the *Daily Record* had an error and Ms. Fuchs will call to correct it. There were several letters from County Administration re: personnel practices.

Section 106 matters: From NJDEP stating application from Madison railroad station railing installment is not an encroachment; From Jacobs Engineering, inviting public comment at a March 15 meeting re: Waterloo Bridge over the Musconetcong River; From EBI, invitation to comment on Metro PCS 138-foot tower, to raise it to 150 feet and affix telecom antennas, at 87 Route 46, Denville; From the FCC, a packet has been filed by T-Mobile for collocation at 365 Naughtright Road, Long Valley.

Old business: Ms. Vogt got in touch with June Chapolini (sp?) re: the Pitney House and gave her suggestions from the last MCHC meeting. She will talk to her people. She wants to get Ms. Vogt into the house (elderly "Miss Mary still lives there, but she has a good relationship with the family) to see what's inside; Ms. Shultz can come along. Property improvements are being made (a gazebo) but the eventual usage of the house and its 15 acres is up in the air. Perhaps a room will be set side for a historical display, but the town is keeping mum on its plans. This led to a discussion on public access channels; Mendham has produced history videos for its channel. Ms. Fisher mentioned the Boonton train museum is on hold.

New business: The Long Range Plan was covered in committee reports.

Adjournment: 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ann Kurlander
Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 11, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Morris County Cultural Center. Please contact Peg Shultz if you are unable to attend.