

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of December 11, 2012
Amended as requested

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Virginia Vogt, Miriam Morris, Dan Beards, Epsy Farrell, Tracey Kinsel; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz

Absent: Commissioners James Woodruff, Henry Kafel

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fast at the County Cultural Center at 9:37 a.m. The Open Meeting Statement was read.

Minutes: There were no August (summer break) or November (Hurricane Sandy) meetings. Minutes of October were distributed and approved, with Commissioners Vogt and Farrell abstaining.

Financial report: Budget balance is \$14,577 as of November 20. Less the ten thousand dollars earmarked as match funds for a grant to create preservation planning documents for the county courthouse, the 2012 budget stands at \$4,577. The Morris Canal Culvert marker charge will be posted to 2012, leaving approximately \$3000 on the table. Ms. Shultz will use a portion of these funds for archival supplies.

Freeholder report: None. The newly elected freeholders will be sworn in January 4, 2012. Our liaison will be new member John Krickus.

Chairman's report:

- Chairman Fast monitored the storm situation and made the call to cancel November's Heritage Commission meeting.
- Chairman Fast attended the October 12 dedication of the Lewis Morris plaque in the new "pocket" park on Washington Street. Ms. Shultz spoke and Commissioner Beards attended. A reception followed at the Morristown Club.
- Mr. Fast attended the Commission's November 15 re-grant meeting, and he monitored the Rockaway Borough marker copy discussion.
- He informed the group that Commissioners Kafel and Kinsel have resigned from the Commission. Member Kathy Fisher's formal leave of absence ends in January, with her return to the Commission uncertain.
- He delivered a talk for the 125th anniversary of the Thomas Edison facility: "Audio Long After Edison."
- He attended two special programs at Craftsman Farms.

Archivist/acting director's report:

- Ms. Shultz coordinated a meeting consisting of outside reviewers and the Commission re-grant committee to award 2012 grants. Nine grants were reviewed, and seven applicants received full or partial awards, for a total of \$20,044 of \$31,957 requested.
- Ms. Shultz attended a county-required OSHA workshop on December 6.
- She attended two meetings regarding historic preservation issues concerning the Kirkbride building on the Greystone campus.

Committee reports:

Archives: James Woodruff, Chair: No report. Members once again discussed the deteriorating conditions at Morris View. County archives continue to be endangered by poor security and now by a new tenant moving into a nearby section of Floor 3. There is unanimous agreement among Commissioners, supported by a previous Commission vote, that the Commission must relocate at least the most valuable county archives back to the Cultural Center ASAP. Nothing was resolved or scheduled.

Grants/Re-grants: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Ms. Shultz reported that 2012 re-grants are expected to be approved by freeholders this week. Commissioner Vogt brought up issues surrounding the re-grants process this year based on the collective experience of the re-grants committee. Although she is chairman of the re-grants committee, Ms. Vogt was not consulted in advance regarding the date set for the grant session, and she was unable to attend on the date selected during a meeting where she was not present. Also, Ms. Vogt never received her grants package, which was placed in the county mail stream on the eve of Hurricane Sandy. Despite the storm, it was agreed that there was insufficient time scheduled between the grant deadline and the grant meeting for committee members to properly review the materials. Ms. Vogt recommended that communications to the re-grants committee be improved and that the grant packages be sent to committee members via registered mail to assure delivery and to maximize review time for committee members. Ms. Shultz expressed concern that she would not be reimbursed for such mailing costs. She was assured that she would be reimbursed, by individual commissioners if necessary. Improvements to the re-grants process were discussed and appropriate guidelines will be developed.

Exhibits/Programs: Jim Woodruff, Chair

No report.

Long-Range Plan: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Ms. Vogt requested agenda time in February for a progress review of Year Two of the Five-year Long-Range Plan.

Markers: Dan Beards, Chair

Chairman Beards attended the dedication of the Miners' Church marker in Rockaway. The Bethel AME church marker has been installed, and a dedication ceremony will be held on December 16. Two versions of copy for the Morris Canal culvert marker, written by David Mitros, were circulated to commissioners. The marker committee added edits to version 2, and, after a final proofread, the copy will be submitted to the marker fabricator and billed to this year's budget. A marker request was received from the Passaic River Coalition. It will be considered in 2013.

Personnel: Henry Kafel

No report. Commission members were asked for recommendations to fill Henry Kafel's term as Commissioner. Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika will take Tracey Kinsel's vacated seat.

Publications: Virginia Vogt and Epsy Farrell, Co-chairs

Commissioner Farrell will be traveling in the Far East after February 7 until early summer. She has agreed to continue her work on the publications committee via email.

- The publication date for the next newsletter to be in the mail is March 15. There was a discussion on content for the newsletter, and stories were assigned.
- David Mitros will be working with Diane Publishing on the reprinting of *Gone to Wear the Victor's Crown*. Chairman Fast is prepared to do small editing fixes.

Communications: Secretary Vogt

Various newsletters and announcements were received and noted. There is an invitation to the swearing in of new freeholders on January 4, 2013.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Achivist/Acting Director Shultz reported on the Greystone Feasibility Study for adaptive use of the Kirkbride building. The county believes that future Greystone use is mainly a municipality matter (primarily Parsippany and Morris Plains). If a suitable use is not found, the state will pay for demolition. Exclusive use as housing has been rejected by communities involved, and multi-purpose use is under consideration: some housing, small boutiques, wedding/caterers, B and B-type

accommodations, art gallery, museum, health care education. Renovation approaches include mothballing some sections while developing others. The county has allowed a short window for consultants to come back with its recommendations.

Commissioners feel that SHPO is hoping a group will come forward to file state and national register applications to establish a Certificate of Eligibility for the Kirkbride building. It was suggested that Preservation NJ might be the best organization to lead this effort.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Vogt, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Archivist/Acting Director Shultz if you are unable to attend.