

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes Meeting of February 9, 2010

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Dave Bogert, Epsey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Tracy Kinsel, Karen Ann Kurlander, James Woodruff; archivist Peg Shultz.

Absent: Henry Kafel, Virginia Vogt, Freeholder liaison Jim Murray.

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: January minutes were read and approved.

Financial report: Mr. Kinsel reported the commission hasn't spent much yet because the final budget has not yet been approved.

Chairman's report: Mr. Fast reported he attended the Freeholders' reorganization meeting on January 6, representing the Heritage Commission. Former Freeholder and Governor-elect Chris Christie was in attendance.

On January 7, he and Ms. Shultz met with Steve Miller at the Morris Museum about the proposal to move the archives there. The meeting was friendly but candid. He needs to speak with his board before anything further can be explored. Nothing has been heard back in the past month.

He drafted letters to State Senator Codey offering the Heritage Commission's support and technical assistance for S-823 (2010), a bill creating the Greystone Preservation Task Force, and to Christopher Walker, the new Superintendent of Morris County Buildings and Grounds, regarding the necessity of developing a qualified historic Preservation Plan and conducting a Section 106 review before any work can be undertaken on the exterior sidewalks of the County Court House.

January 27 was the applicants' workshop for the Historic Preservation Trust Fund's 2010 grant year. He attended as a crossover member and promoted the Heritage Commission's programs and resources.

On January 28, he attended the personnel subcommittee's six month review of Ms. Shultz's performance. All seemed pleased with the outcome. His full report is attached.

Office report: Ms. Shultz reported during the month of January, she continued to be busy managing administrative, clerical, and archival responsibilities, as well as assisting several genealogists and the planning and development department with its GIS project as it relates to cemeteries, veterans, and veterans burial locations.

She had the archival storage area at Morris View inspected by Viking Pest Control, which found both benign and potentially destructive pests (including silverfish). The rooms were treated and will be inspected again in three months. There has been no update on the cigarette ash issue by Morris View management.

All Historic Highlights have been completed and the Winter 2010 edition of the newsletter has been drafted and forwarded to the publications committee for editing.

All re-grant contracts have been received and are being processed through the county treasury and purchasing departments. The interim report for the 2010 re-grant was prepared, approved by the treasury department, and sent to the NJHC prior to the deadline. Site visits should be held in April and early May.

She continues to work with the Washington Township Historical Society on the March 3 program, which looks like it will be very well received. The Morris County Historical Society has asked if the MCHC would be interested in co-sponsoring a Costume Care workshop on September 16.

MCHC has been asked by the president of CARMA to host the September meeting (reserve a space, welcome members, pay for a light breakfast). The Commission voted "yes" on this.

FDU student Kiersten Fuchs began her internship on February 3.

County offices will be closed on February 19 and February 22. Her full report is attached.

Subcommittee reports:

Archives: Larry Fast. Ms. Shultz has had the archival storage area at Morris View inspected by Viking Pest Control, which found mostly harmless insects but also some silverfish. The rooms have been treated and will be reinspected in three months. There has been no update on the cigarette ash issue by Morris View management.

Grants/Re-grants: Dave Bogert. All re-grant contracts have been received and are being processed through the county treasury and purchasing departments. The interim report for the 2010 re-grant was prepared, approved by the treasury department, and sent to Sara Cureton at the NJHC prior to the January 31 deadline.

Long Range Planning: Kathy Fisher

Nothing to report.

Marker Program: Kathy Fisher

The Nicholas Vreeland Out-Kitchen was placed on the NJ Register of Historic Places on September 11, 2009, and on the National Register of Historic Places on December 11, 2009. David Mitros wrote the marker text prior to his retirement, so the marker is ready to order upon approval by the budget committee. This marker was requested and approved by MCHC in 2008 and has been awaiting Register approval. It will be approved if the money remains in our finalized budget.

Personnel: Peg Shultz for Henry Kafel

Ms. Shultz had her review with the personnel committee, and paperwork was sent to Human Resources. Job descriptions need to be rewritten again, adhering to county/union rules. Ms. Shultz would be eligible for another title change in June 2010.

Publications: Karen Ann Kurlander

The newsletter has been sent to the publication committee for editing. The Rockaway Township Historic Highlights brochure has been delivered, and the Mine Hill/Victory Gardens brochure – the final one in the Historic Highlights series – has been sent to the printer. A plan needs to be formulated for reprinting out-of-print publications. The intern is to do an inventory of remaining brochures.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Peg Shultz for Virginia Vogt

March 3 program registration is under way, with about 50 registrants so far. Ms. Shultz is coordinating the program with the Washington Township Historical Society. Kathy Fisher has agreed to help out on the evening of the program.

Communications: Section 106 matters: From the SHPO that the Madison train station ticket booths have no adverse effect; from the FCC, notice that the Section 106 filing re: T-Mobile co-location at Millington Station, Long Hill Road, Millington, has been updated; from SHPO that the George Chamberlain House, Jefferson Township, is on the State Register as of September 2009 and National Register as of December 2009; a letter from Dover Area Historical Society to EBI Consulting, saying the proposed 150' communications tower on Richboynton Road is an encroachment on historical and natural features.

Letter from Friends of Florham thanking the Commission for their consideration of their unsuccessful grant proposal and expressing wishes for a better outcome next year.

Letter from SHPO saying the Whippany Burying Yard, Route 10, Hanover Township, is on the State Register as of September 2009 and National Register as of December 2009.

League of Historical Societies of NB, January 2010, reports that Princeton has digitized and put online its collection of Sanborn fire insurance maps.

Old business: Covered in various reports.

New business: MCHC has been asked to co-sponsor a costume care workshop with the Morris County Historical Society on September 16, 6-8 p.m. The Commission will help publicize the event and will incur no expenses. Voted to accept the invitation accepted. MCHC has been asked to sponsor the September 23 CARMA meeting. We would be responsible for providing a light breakfast and making some introductory remarks. All were in favor to accept the invitation.

Adjournment: 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ann Kurlander
Secretary

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