

**Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of February 14, 2012**

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Virginia Vogt, James Woodruff, Henry Kafel, Dan Beards, Miriam Morris; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz

Absent: Commissioner Tracey Kinsel, Esey Farrell

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fast at the County Cultural Center at 9:33 a.m. The Open Meeting Statement was read.

Minutes: January minutes were read and approved with one correction.

Financial report: Treasurer not present. Commission spending will be minimal until final budgets are settled at the county level.

Freeholder report: None

Chairman's report:

- Chairman Fast (with Archivist Shultz) attended the freeholders' reorganization meeting on January 6.
- He is working with author David Mitros to set up a meeting with Diane Publishing of Philadelphia to explore new distribution and sales of Heritage books.
- He attended the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund board's January reorganization meeting and also a SHPO-chaired meeting to discuss a dispute with the Washington Association concerning a grant-funded project at Washington's Headquarters.
- Chairman Fast reported that plans to apply for a Preservation Trust Fund grant to create guidelines to protect the historic County Courthouse will be postponed until next cycle due to economic and departmental concerns. Deena Cybulski, head of the Planning Department, is supportive of the project.
- He will be working with Jill Hawks, superintendent of both Washington and Edison National Historical Parks, to formulate a plan for cross-promoting those sites and also Historic Speedwell.

Archivist/acting director's report: Archivist/Acting Administrator Shultz reports the following activities in addition to her work in various subcommittee areas:

- Ms. Shultz attended the MCAT meeting on February 1.
- She reports that wire shelving has been installed in the A room, and that the vault door requires attention. She will also inform Buildings and Grounds of needed ceiling repairs.
- Ms. Shultz has scheduled several training courses for the spring.
- Intern management:
 - Eric Dietz of Roger Williams University successfully completed his internship, having entered about 2000 VA burial cards.
 - Amanda Heffernan has begun her internship. She will be working with Greystone blueprints.
 - In February, Amanda Avci will begin an internship, continuing the veteran burial card project.

Committee reports:

Archives: James Woodruff, Chair

Discussion continues about security conditions at the Morris View facility. The general sense of the Commission is to bring archives back to 300 Mendham Road, prioritizing the oldest and most valuable.

Grants/Re-grants: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Ms. Shultz has prepared requisitions for disbursement of the first grant payments. The grant interim report was sent to the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Exhibits/Programs: Jim Woodruff, Chair

To support current interest in one-room schoolhouses, Commissioner Vogt suggested that the spring program might feature an expert on these iconic buildings.

Long-Range Plan: Virginia Vogt, Chair

The new long-range plan is in effect. Commissioner Vogt will briefly report on First Year progress at the March meeting.

Personnel: Henry Kafel

Commissioner Kafel has conducted Archivist/Acting Director Shultz's annual review.

Publications: Virginia Vogt and Esey Farrell, Co-chairs

Ms. Shultz will be readying articles for the next newsletter during February. Members of the publications committee, Chairman Fast, and Acting Director Shultz will meet with author David Mitros and Mr. Herman Baron of Diane Publishing to discuss Heritage publications in early March. Publications committee members who do not own a copy of the Chicago style manual should purchase same, and they will be reimbursed.

Markers: Dan Beards, Chair

Ms. Shultz reported that the Hibernia Church marker has been installed. The Museum of Early Trades and Crafts marker will follow after formal municipal approval. Commissioner Beards submitted an analysis of the Bethel African Methodist Church of Morristown's request for a MCHC historical marker to recognize the religious and cultural leadership of their institution since 1834. The present church is on the same site as the 1874 structure, which was razed in 1968, but the replacement church, built in 1970, is not old enough to be deemed historic. (The original site of the 1849 church is now a service station on the other side of Spring Street.) Commission members would like to see the Morristown AME Church, an important icon of African-American history in Morris County, afforded the recognition it deserves. Commissioner Beards will convey various Commission ideas to achieve this aim, including applying for MCHC re-grant funds to create an interpretive panel and investigating various municipal, county and state government proclamations.

Communications: Secretary Vogt

Several Section 106 notifications were received in addition to various newsletters and announcements.

Old Business: Freeholder Nordstrom's position has been challenged once again and the way forward is complex, with the county Democratic Party contending a win for their candidate and the Republican Party poised to appoint a replacement freeholder.

New Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Vogt, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.