

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2018

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast (by conference call), Esey Farrell, Marty Kane, Joyce Kanigel, Joe Macasek, and John Manna; Acting Director Peg Shultz and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent/Excused: John Dunado and Kathy Fisher.

Call to Order: Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:39 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes for March 13, 2018. Commissioner Kanigel abstained.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented.

Financial Report:

- The county budget was approved and funds are now available.
- We have almost met our annual goal in the appropriation credits. This is due to Ms. Shultz rebuilding the relationship with the Eastern National, the vendor that runs the gift shop at the Morristown National Park.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy looked into the property listing of the Peter Cook House. She reported it is no longer posted on the real estate online listing.
- Chair Murphy acknowledged that many of the historical societies and Commissioners were busy with the Preservation Historic Trust Fund Grant applications, which were due towards the end of this month.

Office Report:

- Acting Director/Archivist Peg Shultz has begun to break down the WWI soldiers spreadsheets by municipalities so the list can be printed similar to the municipal historic highlights. A larger in-depth production is being considered.
- Ms. Shultz reported that the researcher room has been organized and inventoried by Debra Larson.
- Ms. Shultz helped prepare an exhibition proposal for Ed O'Rourke from the Sheriff's Office on the history of the department. An appointment to visit the Madison Police Department had been postponed due to winter weather conditions.

Archives Report: Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on numerous collections. Multiple research requests were received and answered.

Subcommittee Reports:

Archives: No further discussion.

Grants: The state has renamed the grant program the County History Partnership Program (CHPP). Ms. Shultz discussed some of the timing delays to the 2018 re-grant program. Payment vouchers have been sent out to re-grant recipients.

Long-Range Plan: The new three-year cycle for the Long Range Plan will begin in January 2019. Sections are being reviewed and will begin to be drafted in the fall of 2018. Ms. Shultz will create a new folder in Dropbox for Long-Range Plan revisions.

Marker Program:

- County Garage found a Morris County entrance marker in the back of their workshop. Staff is investigating its location. If the marker is to be reset, a new pole will need to be ordered.
- To date, no marker applications for 2018 have been received.

Publications:

- The winter/spring newsletter is in layout.
- Articles for the summer/fall issue are being compiled. A dropbox folder (Fall 2018) has been created for the next edition.

Public Programs:

- The MCHC will co-sponsor the New Jersey Canal Society's annual symposium on April 28 at Frelinghuysen Arboretum; 57 people have registered for the program.
- The Commission will participate in Wharton's 43rd Canal Day Festival and three history organization have signed up.
- Two new lunch-and-learn programs are being developed. The programs will focus on grant writing tips and the changes in the Commission's re-grant program.
- A smaller- scale World War 1 program to mark the Armistice is in the planning stages for November and will feature members of the volunteer services.

Communications: Several newsletters were received. A previous Section 106 review involving a cell tower adjacent to the New Vernon Historic District was discussed. A vote of assent to comment was held and approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **May 8, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.** Please inform the staff if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hefferan
(Substituting for John Dunado, Heritage Commission Secretary)