

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2019

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Esey Farrell, Marty Kane, Joe Macasek, John Dunado (conference call), and Amery Vasso (conference call); Director Peg Shultz, History Program Development Specialist Nick Palatucci, and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent/Excused: None

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:36 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the September 10, 2019, meeting, with one abstention.

Financial Report:

- The 2020 departmental budget proposal was approved by county administration.
- Invoices are being processed as received.
- Archival and office supplies were ordered.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy commented on the passing of Commissioner Joyce Kanigel.
- Nick Palatucci was welcomed as the new part-time History Program Development Specialist.
- Commissioners were asked to make suggestions for vacant Commissioner positions to either Chair Murphy or Director Peg Shultz.

Office Report: Ms. Shultz attended the Morristown Presbyterian Church rededication on Saturday, September 14. Ms. Shultz also attended the naturalization ceremony at Morristown National Historical Park on Wednesday, September 25. On October 3, Ms. Shultz, Ms. Hefferan, and Mr. Fast attended the Morris Museum's Smithsonian partnership celebration. A new printer/scanner was ordered for Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on the archival collection.
- Several research requests were received.
- Ms. Hefferan gave a recap of the annual Morristown Fall Festival which was held on September 29. She thanked Commissioners and staff for volunteering at the booth.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- Site visits for the 2019 re-grants have been scheduled, confirmations are pending.
- Ms. Shultz and Mr. Palatucci met with the Jewish Historical Society of Metro West in the MCHC conference room.
- Ms. Shultz and Mr. Palatucci will meet with Joe Macasek of the Canal Society of New Jersey following today's meeting.
- The MCHC received 11 Declaration of Intent forms; the DOI from the Presbyterian Church in Morristown was rejected by County Counsel.
- Two of the three outside reviewers for the 2020 re-grants have been selected.
- The 2020 Re-grant Application is posted online, with an application deadline of December 4, 2019.

Long-Range Plan:

- Updates to the Long-Range Plan were discussed.

Marker Program:

- The Lake Hopatcong Railroad Station marker was installed. A dedication ceremony for the new marker will be set at a later date.
- Chair Murphy has been locating county entrance marker sites.
- The number of county markers, locations, and text must be determined by the marker committee to be presented to the Commission as soon as possible.
- Nick Palatucci shared preliminary text for the county entrance replacement markers.
- The upgraded marker webpage was shared with the Commissioners.

Personnel: Nick Palatucci was welcomed as the new part-time History Program Development Specialist. Ms. Shultz's title has been changed to Director-Archives and Heritage Affairs. The Commissioners discussed the need to fill the open Commissioner positions. Chair Murphy again asked that suggestions be submitted to herself and Ms. Shultz.

Publications:

- The fall edition of *The Heritage Review* has been sent to the print shop.
- Article suggestions for the Winter 2019 newsletter were discussed.

Public Programs:

- A small exhibit for Constitution Week (September 17-23) was curated and installed. It will be on view through mid-October.
- Commissioners Larry Fast, Amery Vasso, and Marty Kane were thanked for working the booth at the annual Morristown Fall Festival, as were staff members, Amanda Hefferan and Nick Palatucci.
- The list of programs for 2019 has been updated.
- The October 5 presentation on Bakelite was canceled.
- Ms. Shultz and Mr. Palatucci are working on program themes for the coming 50th anniversary celebration.

Communications: Several newsletters and event notifications were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **November 12, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.** Please inform the staff if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Palatucci
(Substituting for Heritage Commission Secretary)