

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020

(via conference call)

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Treasurer Esey Farrell, Secretary Carol Barkin, John Dunado, Marty Kane, Joe Macasek, T.C. McCourt, Amery Vasso, Director Peg Shultz, History Program Development Specialist Nick Palatucci

Absent/Excused: Amanda Hefferan

Call to Order: Due to social distancing requirements, the meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. on Zoom. Chair Kathy Murphy read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as presented from the July 14, 2020, meeting.

Office Report by Peg Shultz: All re-grant payments were processed. The 2021 capital budget instructions have been received. We are not anticipating a need for capital expenses in 2021. Operating expense and salary budget instructions were received in the last week of August. Ms. Shultz is working on the preliminary operating expense budget. A PPE order was placed/received for staff.

Archives Technician Report: Amanda Hefferan was on a medical absence.

History Program Development Specialist Report: Nick Palatucci provided the marker text to the Marker Committee for the county markers. Nick will look for county entrance points for approved markers. Peg and Nick completed all re-grant "site visits" via Zoom and telephone. Ruth Pace is repainting a group of markers, including an "adopted" marker on Patriots' Path describing the Rock-a-Bye Railroad.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Archives:** The archives continue to be closed to on-site researchers. Ms. Hefferan will be out of office until mid-September
- **Grants/Re-Grants:** Site visits with re-grantees have been completed. Due to social distancing mandates and considering our re-grantees concerns, all site visits were held via tele-conference or Zoom.
- **Marker Program:** The county entrance replacement markers project is moving forward. The recommended text has been forwarded to county administration and to Freeholder Liaison, Kathy DeFillippo. Ruth Pace will be cleaning and painting markers in the Morristown area in September. The 'rogue' marker located on Patriots' Path near Lake Street in Morris Township had been vandalized with graffiti and was brought to our attention by a concerned constituent. Working with the Park Commission and county administration, it was determined that the marker will be adopted by the HC and will be added to our maintenance list.

- **Public Programs/Exhibits:** All public programming has been postponed due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines and the projected lack of available space. PR announcing the 2021 rescheduling will be sent to the Office of Public Information for distribution to media outlets when appropriate.
- **Publications:** The Fall issue of the newsletter is in layout. Articles from the previous editions for the 50th- anniversary online special edition have been transcribed and will go to the copy-editing phase later this month.

Communication: Four newsletters were received from historical organizations.

The meeting was adjourned: 10:54 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. via conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barkin, Secretary