

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2018

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

Absent/Excused: John Dunado and John Manna.

Call to Order: Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:35 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes for May 8, 2018, as amended. Commissioner Farrell and Commissioner Fisher abstained.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented.

Financial Report:

- Invoices are being entered and processed.
- The invoice for new laptops and projectors has been processed.
- Travel expenses for Ms. Shultz and Ms. Hefferan have been submitted.
- A pop-up tent was purchased for the Wharton Canal Day festival. The tent can be used at future outdoor events.
- The budget for 2019 has been reviewed with county administration and submitted to the treasury department.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy acknowledged that it has been a busy summer for the Commission with multiple marker dedications and events.
- At the property owner's request, the historic site marker at the Peter Cook House in Denville has been removed.
- The Butternut Tree in Kinnelon came down in a recent storm. The historic site marker was removed. We are working with Kinnelon PD and DPW to locate the marker.

Office Report:

- Ms. Shultz reported that Debra Larson is working on rehousing and organizing the historic site marker files.
- Ms. Shultz continues exhibition work for Ed O'Rourke from the Sheriff's office on the history of the department. Sheriff Gannon asked the archives to look for materials that may show the interaction between colonial sheriffs, Militia Men, and Continental Army officers. No records have been found to date.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on several sub-collections.
- Ms. Hefferan has drafted a location plan for the oversized materials.
- On September 5, Ms. Hefferan attended a CCAHA on the preservation of blueprints. She will be attending two more classes, one on October 4 on matting and framing and one on October 16, which will focus on mold prevention and remediation.
- Multiple research requests were received and answered.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The FY 2019 re-grant application and instructions booklet was uploaded to the website. Changes were made to bring the re-grant program in line with changes made to the program by the NJHC and the recent State Supreme Court decision. County Counsel has determined that religious institutions are no longer eligible to receive funds through the Heritage Commission's Re-Grant Program.
- The commissioners discussed the use of several IRS 501 (c) codes for the re-grant application and instruction booklet for 2020. Because 501(c) 3 is the most commonly used by nonprofits, it was decided to continue using it.

Marker Program:

- Ruth is working on cleaning and painting the thirteen markers selected for this summer.
- A dedication for the Millington Railroad Station is being planned for early fall.
- The Commission has received a new historic site marker application for the Dublin neighborhood in Morristown submitted by the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick. The application was accepted and approved. The marker text will be reviewed at the October meeting.

Publications:

- All articles for the fall edition of the newsletter have been completed. *The Commissioners' Corner* is the only article outstanding. A folder has been set up in Dropbox for the publications committee so they can start editing the material.
- Vice Chair Fast will be able to do the newsletter layout for the next issue.

Public Programs:

- The Commission participated in Wharton's annual Canal Day Festival. An estimated 250 people visited the Commission's display and talked with staff. Ms. Shultz suggested the Commission attend again if invited.
- On July 20, the Commission shared a table at the 4H Fair in Chester with the County Library. Around 500 people stopped by the table in the day. The Commissioners discussed participation at the fair in 2019 for two days.
- Two lunch-and-learn programs focusing on grant writing and the 2019 re-grant program were held in August. Attendance was lower than expected; however, we did have several new organizations represented.
- Ms. Shultz gave a presentation about the MCHC to the American Legion Post Commanders on August 17.
- The staff de-installed the exhibit on the Lucille Hobbie art.
- The Commission has reserved a table for the Morristown Fall Festival and Commissioners are needed to sit at the booth.
- On October 13, the Commission will be cohosting an antique and vintage Fire Truck Muster at the County Library for fire prevention week. There will be historic trucks outside and exhibits inside. We are reaching out to the Fireman's Museum in Boonton to see if they would be interested in exhibiting as well.
- The centennial of the WWI Armistice program will be held at the County Library on Saturday, November 10. Speakers from our previous WWI program who have agreed to speak this year are John Torkos, Steve Santucci, and Ron Northrop. The local Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 195 from Chatham will be donating a signed lithograph of WW1 ace Eddie Rickenbacker by artist Keith Ferris. There will be a dedication ceremony and members of the AFA will invite Mr. Ferris to attend. When we have a firm schedule, we will send out press releases and invitations.
- Plans have begun for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Heritage Commission in November 2020.
- Ideas for exhibits in 2019 were discussed. An exhibit and a presentation on Boontonware and Bakelite were discussed.

Long-Range Plan:

- Committee will begin working on updating the long-range plan in November.
- A dropbox folder will be set up for the committee to make editing easier for everyone.
- The Long Range Plan committee will review the plan for 2019-2021. The focus will be on the executive summary, personnel, markers, and public programs. Attention will also be given to the 50th anniversary of the Commission.

Communications: Several newsletters were received. Four Section 106 were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. Due to a loss of quorum, a work session was held until 12:01 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's conference room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **October 9, 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)