

**Morris County Advisory Committee on Women**  
**February 16, 2022, 5:30pm to 7:00pm**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Kasey Errico, Pam Bennett-Santoro, Joann Bjornson, Eileen Specchio, Donna Boyce, Elaine Muller, Charlotte Miller, Sydney Ugalde

**Guest:** Nancy Eberhardt, Executive Director, Pro Bono Partnership

**Welcome and Introductions:** Ms. Bjornson called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. Due to business travel, new member Sandra Garcia was unable to attend. Ms. Bjornson asked if there was information to share on Ms. Garcia. Ms. Kisatsky responded there was, however, we would need Ms. Garcia's consent. Ms. Kisatsky will look into this matter. Ms. Bjornson informed Ms. Eberhardt that to date, the Commissioners have not moved to take action on her application.

For attending guests, Ms. Bjornson asked Ms. Errico what, other than not voting, are there rules or guidelines that are different than members. Ms. Errico replied that guests are members of the public and are welcome to attend the entire meeting, it's an open public meeting. Item 5 on the agenda is the Public Section where guests can comment and ask questions. Time limits during the public session may be enforced due to time manage. Time limits are at the discretion of the Committee. Ms. Bjornson asked the members if they wanted to create a policy enforcing time limits during the Public Section. Ms. Specchio recommended not having a time limit for the Public Section, Committee members agreed.

**Review of January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes:** The Committee reviewed the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made Ms. Specchio, Ms. Bennett-Santoro seconded the motion.

**Discussion Topics:**

\*Ms. Bennett-Santoro reported that the Committee unanimously voted for Ms. Mary Ledyard to be the recipient of the 2022 Seeds of Change Award. The presentation will be conducted at the March 9<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's meeting at 4:30 pm. Virtual and in-person attendance is available. Ms. O'Keeffe contacted Ms. Ledyard and confirmed her in-person attendance. Ms. Nora Godown, who nominated Ms. Ledyard for the award, will also be attending in-person. The link to the virtual meeting can be found on the County website <https://www.morriscountynj.gov> click on Commissioner Meetings. Ms. Kisatsky will also forward the link once it becomes available. Committee Members attending in-person, are to contact Ms. Kisatsky for parking. Committee members were reminded that there will be a Security Check Point and to budget your time appropriately. A resolution honoring Carole Harper for will also be conducted at this meeting. Ms. Kisatsky will arrange for a small reception to be held after the award presentation.

- Annual Report: Ms. Bjornson stated that the Annual Report is historically created in the Fall, finalized at the end of the year, and submitted at the first or second Commissioner meeting of the new year. She asked if Committee members has any questions/comments or edits on the document. Ms. Bjornson made a motion to vote on submitting the Annual Report as written to the Commissioners. Motion to accept the submission was made by Ms. Bennett-Santoro, seconded by Ms. Muller, motion passed. Ms. Bjornson recommended that the Annual Report be worked on throughout the year.
- Letter of Support for the Housing Trust Fund: Ms. Bjornson discussed creating a letter of support and submitting it to the Commissioners. Other Advisory Committees have already submitted letters, however, there has been no movement from the Commissioners. Ms. Bjornson, Ms. Boyce, (and maybe guest Nancy Eberhardt) discussed working on the letter of support. A sample letter was provided by Jeff Bashe, (HSAC), who presented on this topic last month. Ms. Bjornson asked the Committee if they reviewed the letter and if there was anything important to add, to help with the writing of a letter on behalf of the Committee. Ms. Muller stated that during her review, contents of the sample letter mentioned twelve other County's that have a Housing Trust Fund. Ms. Errico stated that Mr. Bache mentioned this in his presentation. This information was not in the letter of support. Ms. Mueller asked if there a way to find out what twelve Counties are already on board with this initiative. Ms.

Errico stated that we can get this information, it's an easy search. Ms. Bjornson stated that having this information for their letter of support would be helpful, along with including information on ALICE. Suggestions from other members are encouraged. The letter needs to be submitted in April. Ms. Bjornson, Ms. Boyce, and Ms. Eberhardt will work on the Letter of Support.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2022 via Microsoft Teams. Ms. Bjornson stated that the Committee will continue to meet virtually. Ms. Mueller suggested that virtual meeting continue through the winter. Ms. Bjornson recommended revisiting this topic in April.

**Public Section/Questions:** None

**New Business/Old Business:** Ms. Specchio thanked the Committee for the Orientation package. Ms. Errico stated that the Orientation Packet and a PowerPoint Presentation will be reviewed at the next meeting. Ms. Bjornson stated that the ACoW committed to assisting the HSAC with their Needs Assessment, however, there is no progress at this time. She also informed the Committee that Jessica Gonzales from the Housing Partnership will be conducting a women's empowerment event. Once this information becomes available, she will share it with the Committee.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm

*\*The Commissioner's meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.*