

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes Meeting of December 14, 2010

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Epsey Farrell, Tracy Kinsel, Henry Kafel, Karen Ann Kurlander, Virginia Vogt, and James Woodruff; archivist Peg Shultz; Freeholder liaison Jim Murray.

Absent: Commissioners Dave Bogert and Kathy Fisher.

The meeting was called to order at the Morris County Cultural Center at 9:35 a.m. by Mr. Fast. The Open Meeting statement was read.

Minutes: November minutes were read and approved as corrected.

Financial report, Mr. Kinsel. We are basically on budget, and close to zeroing out. Archival mesh shelving was purchased.

Freeholder's report, Freeholder Murray. Mr. Murray regrets that this is his final report. He does not know who his replacement will be. He has enjoyed working with the Commission and feels it's doing an outstanding job and hopes that will continue. He plans to stay active, so he and the Commissioners will likely run into one another. He reported Ms. Shultz's requisition to move from archivist to administrator is in the works, which will be a boon to the county. Mrs. Farrell moved a motion of appreciation for Mr. Murray's excellent service to the Commission, which passed unanimously.

Chairman's report, Mr. Fast. November was largely taken up by the re-grant program. Although he's not formally on the re-grant subcommittee, as chairman he read all the applications and sat in on the subcommittee's deliberations on November 18. Thank you to all who worked on this project. He will review and sign notification letters to all of the applicants. He coordinated the determination of which candidate on the list of potential members would fill the upcoming open seat. As of early December we have an individual available to serve with us and a consensus from our commissioners to request the appointment. That name has been passed along to the Freeholders for their expected approval. Outside the Commission, Mr. Fast also worked with curator Ellen Snyder-Grenier at the Morris Museum with details of a proposed history of New Jersey Rock and R&B music exhibit, set to open in the spring. Mr. Fast's industry connections will be invaluable. He also had some interaction with the historians responsible for historical accuracy of the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*. He mentioned Mrs. Kurlander has not sought reappointment to the commissions and that Dan Beards has been proposed to replace her. That approval will likely happen at the January Freeholder meeting so their new members may vote. Mr. Beards will attend his first official meeting in February, presumably. The possibility of adding former Open Space Committee members to our list of future candidates was discussed. His full report is attached.

Office report, Ms. Shultz. During November she continued to be busy managing the administrative, clerical, and archival responsibilities.

Archives: Three map cases donated by TDI Power, Hackettstown, were delivered by the road department and will be used in the vault. Help is needed in cleaning the cases, valued at least \$500 each. Thank-you notes were sent to TDI Power and the County Road Department. A final draft of new language for the website regarding the limited availability of the archival materials has been reviewed by the committee chair/chairman. Mrs. Vogt assisted in the editing process. The revised language was sent to the county webmaster and is now up on our webpage. The printer/copier/scanner for the archives was received by ITD and installed at the archives at Morris View. A new CPU was also installed. New wire mesh shelving has been ordered for Morris View and the Cultural Center "A" room. Lab coats were ordered for use in the archive storage areas.

Grants/Re-grants: Applications were due November 5 and were distributed to the grant committee and outside reviewers. The subcommittee met on November 18. Thirteen applications were received and reviewed; nine funded fully or partially. Notification letters have been prepared to go out this week, with the resolution authorizing us to disperse the funds to the re-grantees expected to be signed on December 8. Ms. Shultz expects all paperwork to be sent out to the re-grantees prior to the Christmas holiday.

Marker Program: The Vreeland OutKitchen marker was delivered and will be picked up by the road department this week to pick it up. They will let her know when they plan to do the mark out for the marker installation. Additional marker paint and replacement poles were ordered and have arrived.

GIS/Marker Project: The project is moving ahead steadily. The GIS team has enabled the "select from map" feature and reports print nicely on 8.5 x 11 paper. Ms. Shultz will be working with them to finalize the overall appearance and refine the language on the startup page under "welcome". The sample language can be viewed at https://morrisgis.co.morris.nj.us/MCPRIMA_4x-

war/HeritageCommissionMI?startUpTheme=public_login&publicThemeName=HC%20Marker%20Inventory. Commissioners' comments are welcomed.

Meetings/Training: She attended the CARMA meeting in Middlesex County on December 9. She completed the four-part county management training sessions and will forward to the Personnel chair a copy of the certificate when she receives it from the county HR department.

Misc.: She assisted the ITD web development team with photos and text for the Local Landmarks section on the homepage. Images for the winter months were selected. The calendar of 2011 Commission meetings is attached to today's meeting package. Her full report is attached. Mr. Kafel noted Ms. Shultz may be getting a county van pool vehicle to use on Commission business.

Subcommittee reports:

Archives: Larry Fast: Covered in office report.

Grants/Re-grants: Dave Bogert : Covered in office report.

Long Range Planning: Kathy Fisher & Jim Woodruff : The narrative still isn't completed. Mrs. Vogt will distribute the current draft to all Commissioners to read and comment by December 5, with the goal of approving it at the January 11 meeting.

Marker Program: Kathy Fisher: Covered in office report.

Personnel: Henry Kafel: Ms. Shultz's annual review will be held next month.

Publications: Karen Ann Kurlander: No new business to report. She expressed her appreciation for working with the Commission during her tenure and wished them all the best as her term ends.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Virginia Vogt: No new business to report.

Communications: The *Morris Newsbee* ran another article on the grant program. The *Daily Record* had an opinion piece titled "Are We Doing Enough to Preserve History?" referencing Hurstmont. There was a thank-you from the Morris County Tourism Bureau for the donation of books for their fundraiser. There was also a copy of the Bureau's year-end report. There was a letter from the County to employees reminding them that they may not accept holiday gifts. **Section 106 matters:** From E2 Project Management seeking input re: a proposed 150' Verizon monopole at Picatinny Arsenal, Rockaway; from ATC seeking input re: a T-Mobile installation of equipment on the Towaco (Montville Twp.) railroad station on Whitehall Road; from the FCC on the two previous matters; from the Department of the Army re: a Self-contained Munitions Experimentation Facility ("SAFER cave") at Picatinny. The packet contained many interesting old maps.

Old business: Mrs. Vogt mentioned the 1740s Post House is up for sale, and the owner would consider selling it for demolition/the land value. The Park Commission coveted the A-room. We said "no." Then they asked for the Archivist's office – request denied – and then Ms. Shultz's office – again denied. As a compromise, we will give them a second-floor storage closet, but the Park Commission would be required to assemble the new shelving and move the Heritage Commission's items from the closet to the A-room. We will send them a letter indicating this is the only space we will yield. Picatinny Arsenal is redoing its historic site markers throughout the post and has asked Ms. Shultz to assist in the process. As there are fewer than six markers, she feels the project will not be too much of a drain on her time. She was suggested to the Arsenal by the state, which thinks the Heritage Commission's marker program is exemplary.

New business: Ms. Vogt talked to David Mitros who sends his greeting to all, and who asked that the new Freeholders receive copies of our publications. It was moved that a commemorative motion mark Mrs. Kurlander's service to the Commission. It was passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ann Kurlander
Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 11, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Morris County Cultural Center, beginning with a reorganization meeting. Please contact Peg Shultz if you are unable to attend.