

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes

Meeting of December 8, 2015

Present: Chairman Larry Fast and Commissioners Esey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Kathy Murphy, Joyce Kanigel, Joseph Macasek, Miriam Morris, and Archivist/Acting Director Margaret Shultz.

Absent: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, and Freeholder Director Kathryn DeFillippo.

Call to order: Chairman Fast called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:36 a.m. He read the Public Open Meeting Statement.

Minutes: the minutes for November 10, 2015, were accepted as amended.

Freeholder Report: no report: see Chair and Archivist/Acting Director's report.

Financial Report: see the Expenditure Budget Activity to 12/7/2015 attached to the meeting package for December 8, 2015. There will be no new requisitions for the remainder of 2015. Those encumbered to date will be processed.

Chair Report: see the Chair Report for November and December, 2015 attached to the meeting package for December 08, 2015. Commissioner Nadzeika has met with Cathy Burd regarding personnel expansion.

Archivist/Acting Director's Report: attached to the meeting package for December 8, 2015.

Archives: The fire marshal has approved the installation of shelving and fire suppression systems. He will arrange for a fire extinguisher to be installed in the archive room (159A).

- Amanda Hefferan has been logging additional boxes of microfilm that have never been accessioned into the collection. Adequate space is becoming an issue.
- January cleanup: the majority of books from Morris View are in "fragile" condition and wrapped in paper that contains lignum, and has become acidic with time. Many existing boxes are more than 20 years old and need to be replaced.

Website: The history of the county on the county website is in need of updating. While the text is not part of the commission's website, it is associated with the MCHC due to its content. The Office of Public Information has requested the commission's assistance in correcting and updating the information about Morris County's history. The work will require approximately 100 personnel hours for fact checking, rewriting and editing.

Committee reports:

Archives: Kathy Murphy and Joe Macasek, Co-Chairs.

See Archivist/Acting Director's report above and attached.

- Having been the leader in archival holdings, Morris County is now in the last place, a situation the Commissioners would like to see reversed.
- The rolling shelves are 90% labeled. Ms. Hefferan has started labeling and inventorying the oversized items.
- All the Surrogate Estate files have been reboxed. There is water damage, warping and cracking along fold lines.

Grants/Re-grants: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

See Archivist/Acting Director's report attached.

Long-Range Plan: Esey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Co-Chairs

The co-chairs and Acting Director Shultz prepared an executive summary for submission before the New Jersey Historical Commission deadline. The full plan is required by May 1, 2016, a draft of which will be ready for scrutiny prior to the February meeting when it will be discussed

Marker Program: Kathy Fisher, Chair: see Archivist/Acting Director's report.

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Personnel: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair: John Dunado's resume has been forwarded to the Freeholders for consideration to fill the seat on the commission vacated by Elliott Ruga. Requests for the re-appointment of Commissioners Fast and Murphy and the appointment of John Dunado will be on the last Freeholder meeting agenda for the year.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

Joint program for the Canal Society Symposium in April: Acting Director Shultz will obtain food prices for breakfast and lunch from Longfellow's Deli. She recommended the Canal Society obtain the bottled beverages separately. The Canal Society symposium committee will be meeting in December.

- The Sheriff's Department has donated an exhibit case to the Commission.

Publications: see Chair Report attached.

E-book: John Dunado has expressed interest in joining the e-book subcommittee.

Heritage Review Winter issue: Aiming for the material to be submitted by December 19.

Articles:

- Picatinny: Acting Director Shultz will contact Jason Huggan
- Introductions: Amanda Hefferan and John Dunado: need photos
- A further update to that already prepared by Commissioner Murphy
- Canal Society/Commission joint symposium: an expansion of the full-page ad already submitted by Commissioner Macasek
- Quips and Quotes: Acting Director Shultz has found material on the Lusitania, German rush for citizenship, and Japanese internment camps in the Trenton Evening Times.
- Commissioner's Corner: Commissioner Fisher will compose an article on the problems of the promotion of false history.

New Business:

No new business was brought to the table for discussion.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Morris, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.**
at the Commissions Conference Room at the County Library.

Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.