

## **Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes Meeting of March 9, 2010**

**Present:** Commissioners Larry Fast, Dave Bogert, Kathy Fisher, Henry Kafel, Tracy Kinsel, Karen Ann Kurlander, Virginia Vogt, James Woodruff; archivist Peg Shultz; Freeholder liaison Jim Murray.

**Absent:** Epsey Farrell.

The meeting was called to order at the Morris County Cultural Center at 9:34 a.m. by Mr. Fast. The Open Meeting statement was read.

**Minutes:** February minutes were read and approved.

**Financial report,** Mr. Kinsel. We are on target, considering the final budget has not yet been approved. Reports are now to be submitted online.

**Freeholder's report,** Freeholder Murray. The Freeholders are working on the budget, with an eye towards controlling spending and lowering taxes. They have avoided layoffs but are losing positions through attrition. Service levels are being maintained, including at the Commission. He received an invitation from the Jefferson Township Historical Society for the event marking their museum being named to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

**Chairman's report,** Mr. Fast. February was short and snowbound. His main activity was focused on our attempt to reach out to State Senator Codey regarding his bill S-823 (2010), creating the Greystone Preservation Task Force. In February, the Commissioners had decided to send a letter offering our support and technical assistance to the task force. Before the letter was sent, Mr. Fast called Freeholder Nordstrom, who informed him that the bill was being watched by the Morris County delegation in Trenton and that he should speak with County Administrator Bonanni before doing anything. The letters were not sent. He spoke with Mr. Bonanni on February 19, reviewing the proposed legislation. Mr. Bonanni, as high-ranking member of Gov. Christie's transition team, has asked that the Heritage Commission refrain from contacting Senator Codey directly at this time. A follow-up discussion was delayed by a snow emergency. Mr. Fast will continue to pursue this matter, as will Freeholder Murray. Mr. Bogert suggested the Morris County Trust for Historic Preservation might replace the Morris County Historical Society on the task force.

The Heritage Commission sent a letter to Christopher Walker, the new Superintendent of Morris County Buildings and Grounds, on the necessity of developing a qualified historic Preservation Plan and conducting a Section 106 review before any work is undertaken on the exterior sidewalks of the County Court House. No response has been received to date. Some discussion ensued on snow removal procedures.

After some last-minute changes to the first "Commissioners' Corner" column, the newsletter went to press and web. His full report is attached.

**Office report,** Ms. Shultz. She has continued to assist the planning and development department with their GIS project relating to cemeteries, veterans and veterans burial locations, and history-related subjects.

A third-party contractor has found several letters in the Greystone building used by the ARC and turned them over to the ARC executive director, Bill Testa, who in turn gave them to Larry Ragonese of the *Star Ledger*. He contacted Ms. Shultz to comment on their historical value and whether the Commission would be interested in accessioning them (which we are). The article ran in the February 28 *Star Ledger*. A discussion ensued on creating a policy to cover artifacts discovered on County property. Ms. Shultz is to look for precedents. The Mine Hill/Victory Gardens brochure was completed and all interested parties were notified. We have now published a brochure for each municipality. The winter 2010 newsletter has been published on paper and electronically. Intern Kiersten Fuchs and David Breslauer assisted with the mailing.

Re-grant site visits should be held in April and early May. Sue Pinto has indicated there will be no PARIS funding for 2011.

The "Practical Tips for the Care of Historical Documents" program was held March 3 with 94 attendees, about half from institutions outside Morris County. The program was co-sponsored with the Washington Township Historical Society. Commissioners Bogert, Fast, Fisher, Kurlander, Vogt, and Woodruff were in attendance. Attendees ranked the program "above average" in all aspects. Intern Kiersten Fuchs began her internship February 3, working Wednesdays and Friday mornings. She will earn college credit for her intern experience. Her work e-mail address is [kfuchs@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:kfuchs@co.morris.nj.us).

Ms. Shultz and Mr. Bogert attended a SHPO Town Hall Meeting in Hackettstown on February 22. The topic was the development of New Jersey's NJ Historic Preservation Plan. On March 1, she was asked by Ray Chang at the Planning and Development Department to review five RFPs submitted by consultants for the Historic Preservation Trust Fund grant program. Ms. Shultz is scheduled to give a talk on "Exceptional Women" for the Madison Women's Club on April 8. Her full report is attached.

**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. To be covered in New Business.

**Marker Program:** Kathy Fisher. No new business to report.

**Personnel:** Henry Kafel. No new business to report

**Publications:** Karen Ann Kurlander. Covered in Office Report.

**Public Programs/Exhibits:** Virginia Vogt. Covered in Office Report.

**Communications:** Section 106 matters: From EBI, invitation to comment on T-Mobile co-location on 135-foot PSEG tower, to raise it to 148 feet, at 365 Naughtright Road, Long Valley. From EBI, to comment on a 150-foot monopole proposed for 770 Route 23 in Pequannock. From the FCC, a packet has been filed by T-Mobile for 43 Stiles Lane, Montville. From SHPO that Picatinny Arsenal Building 119 is a contributing structure and that SHPO doesn't concur with Jason Huggin's finding that the proposed alterations will have no adverse effect. It suggests saving all the windows and not replacing one with a door; the building can be ADA-compliant with lesser modifications than those proposed.

**Old business:** The conservation program was really well received and participants provided in their assessments many useful ideas for future programs.

**New business:** Ms. Vogt said the Pitney House has been sold to Mendham Township, though an elderly family member gets to live there for the duration. There are 200 years' worth of archival documents to be dealt with and no budget to do anything. She asked about best practices for archival materials and how these should be organized. It was suggested she create a small committee of volunteers. Ms. Shultz will look at the collection to make a general recommendation of action. She knows some retired photographers who make be able to help with documentary pictures of the interior. A CAPES survey is also strongly recommended.

Ms. Fisher and Mr. Woodruff reviewed the March 2009 draft of the Long Range Plan created by Carrie Fellows. Most of her revisions remain relevant; other changes will be needed in view of the spending freeze, possible move to Morris View, and staff vacancies. Contingency plans will be needed for the more distant years -- the new LRP will cover 2011-2015. The Commission discussed Personnel issues, and then decided it needed to review the entire document and meet separately in the evening to discuss it. (These meetings took place on March 17 and 25, with a final version to be discussed at the next Commission meeting.)

**Adjournment:** 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ann Kurlander  
Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Morris County Cultural Center. Please contact Peg Shultz if you are unable to attend.