

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2019

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Esey Farrell, John Manna, Joyce Kanigel (by conference call), Joe Macasek, and Amery Vasso; Acting Director Peg Shultz and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan

Absent/Excused: John Dunado and Marty Kane

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9: 38 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes for March 12, 2019.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented.

Financial Report:

- The budget has been approved by the Freeholders.
- The Commission has brought in more appropriation credits.
- A Program Development Specialist, Heritage and Cultural Affairs, part-time position was added to the 2019 budget.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy has been working with Commissioner Kane on the Long-Range Plan and discussed some of Mr. Kane's proposed changes with the members and staff.
- Chair Murphy also updated the Commission on Mr. Dunado's leave of absence.

Office Report:

- Ms. Shultz gave a presentation to the three Morris County Daughters of the American Revolution chapters. Her talk was focused on the history of the Morris County Courthouse and the restoration of Lady Justice. It was well received and she was asked to do a program on the 1833 trial of Antoine Le Blanc.
- The exhibit *The Ties that Bind* has been de-installed.
- Ms. Shultz has started drafting the job description and posting for the part-time history programmer.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on numerous collections.
- She attended the following workshop and symposium sponsored by The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts:
 - April 4 - *Your Photograph Scrapbook: Identification and Preservation*
 - April 5 - *Exposed: The Exhibition of Paper-Based Materials- Symposium & Reception*
- Ms. Hefferan will be attending the following workshops offered by CCAHA:
 - May 15 - *Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive Workshop*
 - May 30 - *Preservation on a Shoestring: Creative Solutions for Storage Challenges- Webinar*
- Several research requests were received by phone and email.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The 2019 re-grant payment vouchers have been sent out to the recipients.
- The 2020 CHPP grant application has been submitted on SAGE. If the Commission is successful and receives funding, the re-grant schedule will be similar to the 2018 and 2019 timelines.

Marker Program:

- The Lake Hopatcong Railroad Station marker text needs to be drafted. We hope to install the marker by August 31.
- Ms. Shultz reached out to our vendor for pricing and design possibilities for the larger 'Roadside' markers. This design is being considered to replace the county entrance markers installed in the 1970s. The number of markers, locations, and text will begin to be determined by the marker committee to present to the Commission.

- The Commission members and staff discussed the possibility and feasibility of historic site markers being installed at locations that were awarded a Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund grant when the projects have been completed.
- Software platform changes require that the historic site marker section of the Commission webpage be changed and updated. The Digital Media Manager for the county offered various software options to the Commission. Her suggestions and designs will be discussed at the May meeting.

Publications:

- The spring edition of the *Heritage Review* has been sent to the printer. The digital copy is posted on the Commission's website and Facebook page.
- Content for the fall edition was discussed. An article on Bakelite will be included to connect with the public program we are co-hosting. Other articles include Spanish flu pandemic, floating classroom, and suffragist movement in Morris County. Any of the major articles will have a word count around 750 words. All articles are due by July 1.
- Ms. Shultz suggested the publication committee members review the brochures to see if any changes need to be made prior to reprinting.

Public Programs:

- The MCHC will co-sponsor a Local History Symposium with the Canal Society on April 27 at the Haggerty Center in Frelinghuysen Arboretum.
- The MCHC will co-sponsor a public program with the Morris County Library on April 29 on George Washington and the Revolutionary War.
- On May 23, "Remembering the Revolutionary War" will be presented at the Morris County Library. The MCHC will co-sponsor the program with the MCL.
- On October 5, the Haggerty Center has been reserved for the presentation about Bakelite.
- Ms. Shultz is planning to do two lunch-and-learn programs over the summer focused on changes to the re-grant program and grant writing basic tips and strategies.
- The Commission plans to attend both the Wharton Canal Day and Morristown's Fall Festival.
- Ms. Shultz is working on program themes and speakers for the upcoming MCHC 50th-anniversary celebration.

Long Range Plan:

- Commissioner Kane made suggestions involving long-term growth and supporting the history community to the draft of the Long-Range Plan.
- Several Commissioners suggested adding a future goals section to the Long-Range Plan that would outline ideas the Commission would like to institute beyond the three years covered in the document.

Communications: Several newsletters and Section 106 Review materials were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **May 14, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.** Please inform the staff if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hefferan
(Substituting for John Manna, Heritage Commission Secretary)