

Morris County Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Epsey Farrell, Marty Kane, Joe Macasek, Amery Vasso, T.C. McCourt, John Dunado, Carol Barkin; Director Peg Shultz, History Program Development Specialist Nick Palatucci, and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan

Absent/Excused: Larry Fast

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:35 a.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Statement. Due to social distancing requirements, the meeting was held online via Zoom.

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the June 9, 2020, meeting minutes.

Financial Report: Director Shultz presented the financial report. No spending occurred during the lockdown. Only recurring monthly expenses are being processed for payment.

Office Report by Peg Shultz:

- Does not anticipate capital spending for Budget Year 2021
- Personnel budget TBD
- County marker program on hold
- No budget “turnovers” requested
- Cancellation of all programming for 2020; no meeting facilities available
- The re-grant interim report was submitted to the NJ Historical Commission

Archives Technician Report: Amanda Hefferan is working on research requests, re-housing materials and updating databases. Amanda is continuing to work on cleaning and organizing the collection. Purchasing the optional add-on feature for the new microfilm reader is on hold.

History Program Development Specialist Report: Nick Palatucci will provide the marker text to the marker committee for the County entrance markers. The Hurd Park marker is on hold. All public programs will be canceled or moved to 2021. Nick will schedule the re-grant site visits. This year, site visits will be held by conference call or Zoom rather than in-person.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Grants/Re-Grants:** Nick Palatucci has been working on the site visit schedule. Due to social distancing mandates and considering re-grantee concerns, all site visits will be held via teleconference or Zoom. The finalized site visit schedule will be sent to the re-grant committee.
- **Marker Program:** Foote's Pond marker was not approved and the applicant was advised that interpretive signage would be preferable. Text for the new County Entrance markers are in development. The Hurd Park marker is on hold.
- **Personnel:** Peg will prepare mid-year personnel review reports.
- **Public Programs/Exhibits:** Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines and the projected lack of available space in 2020, the 50th-anniversary programming has been postponed until 2021. Postponement announcements have been posted to our FB and webpages. PR announcing the 2021 rescheduling will be sent to the Office of Public Information for distribution to media outlets. The grant-writing workshops are on hold pending the availability of re-grant funding for 2021. Workshops planned for mid-August 2020 will be rescheduled and may go to an online format. The Women's Suffrage program we were co-sponsoring with the County Library likewise is on hold.
- **Publications:** The newsletter is almost ready for layout. Epsy Farrell and Ms. Shultz are finalizing the Quips & Quotes article. The staff have pulled articles from the previous editions for the 50th-anniversary online special edition and are transcribing them. This issue is planned for publication in late October/early November.

Communication: One Section 106 request for comments was received.

Old Business: The old microfilm reader was picked up and sent to a government auction site.

New Business: The Commissioners and staff discussed closures of local historic sites affected by COVID and social distancing. The sites managed by the Morris County Park Commission are closed, resulting in lost admission fees and staff layoffs. Peg will reach out to Dave Helmer, Director of the Park Commission, to offer support.

The meeting was adjourned: 10:25 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barkin, Secretary