

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2018

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast (by conference call), Kathy Fisher, Marty Kane, Joyce Kanigel (by conference call), Joe Macasek, and John Manna; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent/Excused: John Dunado, Esey Farrell, and Marty Kane.

Call to Order: Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:40 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of May 8, 2018. All were in favor. Commissioner Fisher abstained.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented.

Financial Report:

- The appropriation credits have been almost completely acquired due to the rebuilt relationship with Eastern National at the Morristown National Historical Park.
- A new laptop and projector have been ordered through IT. Delivery is expected by the end of the month.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy informed the Commission that the Mt. Olive Bridge marker and interpretive panel have been installed. She is planning a dedication ceremony with the freeholders' office and Mount Olive Township.
- The interpretive panel installation near the King House in Ledgewood will take place on August 8. The freeholders and local elected officials will be in attendance.
- Chair Murphy discussed the historic site marker at the Peter Cook House with the property owner. She informed the owner that the marker does not put restraints on altering the home. The Commission will send a letter to the property owner indicating there are no known restrictions at the county and state level and will recommend speaking with the municipal planning department.
- Chair Murphy offered congratulations and well wishes to former Commissioner Miriam Morris on selling her home and purchasing her new residence in North Carolina.

Office Report:

- Ms. Shultz reported that Debra Larson has begun a new project to assess and organize the town files.
- Ms. Shultz continues exhibition work with Ed O'Rourke from the Sheriff's office on the history of the department.
- Ms. Shultz and Ms. Hefferan will meet with a possible donor for an archival donation later this week.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on several collections.
- Ms. Hefferan is mapping out a plan for housing the oversized materials in the HD shelving unit. The library has requested the archives hold their current blueprint plans, as they have no proper place to store them.
- Staff responded to several research requests.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The FY 2019 re-grant application and instructions booklet has been updated. Changes were made to bring the re-grant program in line with changes made to the program by the NJHC and the recent State Supreme Court decision. County counsel has determined that religious institutions are no longer eligible to receive funds through the Heritage Commission's Re-Grant Program. Based on that conclusion, he is now considering whether the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest is a religious institution that would be ineligible for these funds.
- Pending questions regarding the decision sent to Deena Leary are:

- Can we fund either GOS or Project re-grants for applicant organizations that are supported by religious organizations/institutions (i.e. Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest, Friends of Historic Saint Peter's Church)?
- Can we fund projects for historic burial grounds that are on church property (i.e. First Presbyterian Church, St. Peter's Church cemeteries, Whippany Burial Ground at 1st Presbyterian Church of Whippany, etc.)?
- The 2018 re-grant site visits are being scheduled.

Long-Range Plan: The new three-year cycle for the Long Range Plan will begin in January 2019. The 2016-2018 plan is currently being reviewed by the committee. The focus over the next three years will be on staffing and job titles.

Marker Program:

- County Garage found a Morris County historic site marker in their welding workshop. The marker committee will discuss replacing the marker and sign.
- Staff is preparing the list of markers that need maintenance, cleaning, and painting over the summer.
- Lakeshore Industries, our marker vendor, has created several new styles of aluminum markers which include photos/images. The marker committee will review the information and consider using this type of marker for select sites in the future.

Publications:

- Articles for the summer/fall newsletter are being compiled. There was a Commissioners' Corner topic about historic preservation of townscapes that was suggested. A drop box folder has been created for the next edition.
- Acting Director/Archivist Peg Shultz has begun to break down the WW1 soldiers' spreadsheets by municipalities so that the list can be printed in a format similar to the municipal historic highlights. A larger in-depth production is being considered.

Public Programs:

- The Commission will participate in Wharton's Canal Day Festival in August. Ms. Shultz continues to use our contact list to distribute press releases. The Commission will cover the honorarium for reenactors interpreting President and Mrs. Lincoln.
- Two lunch-and-learn programs have been scheduled for the summer. The first will be *Helpful Tips for Writing a Successful Grant Application* on July 31. The second will focus on changes to the re-grant program on August 7. Both programs will run from 11.30 a.m.– 12.30 p.m.
- The 100th anniversary of the Armistice program will be held at the County Library on Saturday, November 10. Speakers from our previous WWI program who have agreed to speak this year are John Torkos, Steve Santucci, and Ron Northrop. The local Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 195 from Chatham will be donating a signed lithograph of WW1 Ace Eddie Rickenbacker by artist Keith Ferris. There will be a dedication ceremony and members of the AFA will invite Mr. Ferris to attend. When we have a firm schedule, we will send out press releases and invitations.
- The program planned for the CARMA-NJ meeting in September has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.
- The staff has started working on the Lucille Hobbie exhibit for the library.

Communications: Several newsletters were received. Three Section 106 notifications were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **July 10, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.** Please inform the staff if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

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