

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Treasurer Epsey Farrell (by conference call), Marty Kane, Joe Macasek, and Amery Vasso; Freeholder John Krickus, Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent/Excused: John Dunado, Joyce Kanigel, and John Manna.

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:33 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes for April 9, 2019. Commissioner Kane abstained.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented. Freeholder Krickus came to the meeting to meet the Commissioners and learn about the Commission's mission and goals.

Financial Report:

- Invoices for regular expenses are being processed.
- The Commission has exceeded appropriation credits from book sales.
- Archival and office supply orders are being prepared. An order for items associated with the 50th Anniversary is also being generated. Commissioner Vasso suggested designing and purchasing a challenge coin as part of the 50th anniversary.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy has been working with Ms. Shultz on personnel and marker plans for the future.

Office Report:

- The part-time History Program Development Specialist position was posted on Facebook, H-Net and sent out to our history organization email list.
- All applications will be shared with Commission officers through Dropbox.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on several parts of the collection.
- Ms. Hefferan will be attending the following workshops:
 - May 15 - Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive
 - May 30 - Preservation on a Shoestring: Creative Solutions for Storage Challenges- Webinar
 - June 5 - Disaster Preparedness
- Several research requests were received.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The Commission is waiting on a few more 2019 re-grant payment vouchers signature to be sent back so all the checks can be sent out.
- Re-grant site visit schedules are being drafted.

Marker Program:

- The Lake Hopatcong Railroad Station marker text has been drafted.
- The new county entrance markers text will have to be drafted. Experimenting with word and sentence structure might be considered.
 - The number of markers, locations, and text will be drafted by the marker committee to present to the Commission at the June meeting.

Publications:

- The spring edition of the *Heritage Review* has been mailed out. The digital copy is posted on the Commission's website and Facebook page.
- Ms. Shultz suggested the Commission take a look at current brochures to see if any updates need to be made.
- For the fall/winter edition, a Bakelite article 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. Commissioner Fast has agreed to do the Commissioner's Corner. All articles are due by July 1st.
- There were additional article topics proposed, including prohibition and speakeasies, new county markers, and the Commission 50th anniversary. These topics will be used in future editions of the newsletter.

Public Programs:

- The MCHC co-sponsored a Local History Symposium with the Canal Society on April 27 which was well attended and received.
- The Canal Society is hosting a guest speaker from Poland, presenting on their canal system, and has made a request for Commissioners to be present. A letter of support and a proclamation is being exchanged between both organizations.
- On May 23, Joel Farkas will present *Remembering the Revolutionary War* 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.
- Peg 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 for the coming 50th-anniversary celebration.
- An exhibition schedule has been created.

Long-Range Plan:

- With the addition of the History Program Development Specialist, sections will have to be updated and edited.
- Updates have been done on the appendix, current situation, goals, and appendices. This revised file has been uploaded to Dropbox.

Communications: Several newsletters, event notifications, and Section 106 notifications were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **June 11, 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)