

# Morris County Heritage Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### May 8, 2018

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

**Absent/Excused:** Kathy Fisher.

**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 for April 10, 2018, as amended. Commissioner Dunado abstained.

**Freeholder Report:** No report was presented.

#### **Financial Report:**

- The budget was approved and available.
- Office supplies were bought
- Research into purchasing a new laptop and projector is underway.

#### **Chair Report:**

- Chair Murphy offered congratulations to Commissioner Kane and the successful starting of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Floating Classroom.
- She also acknowledges PBS NJ History feature on the Florham Estate.
- Chair Murphy informed the commission that the Freeholder event for the volunteer commissioners at the end of the month.

#### **Office Report:**

- Acting Director/Archivist Peg Shultz has begun to break down the WWI soldiers spreadsheets by municipalities. Lists will be printed for publication. A larger in-depth publication is being considered.
- Ms. Shultz reported that Debra Larson has been assigned a new project. She is rehousing and organizing the town files.
- Ms. Shultz continues exhibition work for Ed O'Rourke from the Sheriff's office on the history of the department.

#### **Archives Report:**

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on numerous collections.
- Multiple research requests were received and answered.
- Ms. Hefferan finished numbering the oversized storage room and began mapping out a plan for where the materials are going. The library has requested the archives hold their current blueprint plans, as they have no proper place to store them.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**Archives:** The Air Force Association contacted the MCHC and asked about donating a print to the commission that will be placed on permanent display. Discussions are being held with the library about finding a spot in the public area. A vote was held by the commissioners to accept the donation. Dedication could occur during the World War I programs in the fall.

### **Grants:**

- Ms. Shultz discussed the 2018 re-grant payment vouchers have been received by all but three organizations and emails have been sent to these organizations.
- With the New Jersey Supreme Court decision concerning grant funds being awarded to religious organizations by county government, changes will be made to our re-grant program for 2019. Ms. Shultz will reach out to the administration and county council for advice.

**Long-Range Plan:** The new three-year cycle for the Long Range Plan will be in the fall of 2018. The document is currently being reviewed for the needed updates.

### **Marker Program:**

- County Garage found a Morris County border marker in the back of their workshop. A new sign and pole will be needed because the bolts could not be removed from the pole
- Discussions are underway for a dedication ceremony for the Millington Railroad Station. No discussion has occurred for the Bowsby-DeGelleke marker.
- A historic site marker application has been received for the Lake Hopatcong Railroad Station. The station has received grant money from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the building. Restoration projects on the building are almost complete. The roads around the station are heavily traveled and the sign will be seen very well. Members of the commission agreed the text should be similar other historic site markers placed at railroad stations.

### **Publications:**

- The winter/spring newsletter has been sent to the county print shop.
- Articles and images for the summer/fall issue are being compiled. There was a Commissioners' Corner topic about historic preservation of townscapes that was suggested. A folder has been set up in Dropbox for the next edition.

### **Public Programs:**

- The MCHC co-sponsored the New Jersey Canal Society's annual symposium, 90 people attended with good responses to the various topics.
- The commission will participate in Wharton 43<sup>rd</sup> Canal Day Festival and Ms. Shultz will use our contact list to share press releases and other information about the program with our constituents.
- Two lunch and learn programs will focus on grant writing tips and the changes in commission's re-grant program have been scheduled for late summer.
- A smaller scale WWI program to mark the Armistice is being planned for November and will feature members of the volunteer services.

**Communications:** Several newsletters were received. A previous Section 106 involving Historic New Vernon and phone tower, the commission is drafting a letter of assent by Commissioner Farrell.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **June 12, 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)