

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes Meeting of September 14, 2010

Present: Commissioners Dave Bogert, Larry Fast, Epsey Farrell, Tracy Kinsel, Kathy Fisher, Henry Kafel, Virginia Vogt, and Archivist Peg Shultz.

Absent: Commissioners Karen Ann Kurlander and Jim Woodruff.

The meeting was called to order at the Morris County Cultural Center at 9:35 a.m. by Mr. Fast. The Open Meeting statement was read.

Minutes: The July minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Financial Report: Mr. Kinsel and Ms. Shultz reviewed the commission budget.

Freeholder Report: Freeholder Murray reported the 2011 county budget issues were being reviewed by the budget committee. The freeholders are facing challenges of controlling taxes and maintaining services. He indicated raises for county employees may not be possible for 2011. Healthcare and pension contributions by county employees will probably increase in 2011.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Fast assisted with taking photographs of MCHC markers in Long Hill, Harding and the Chatham's for the GIS layer project in July and August. The Historic Trust Fund is partnering with the Heritage Commission in a public presentation on September 30, at the Cultural Center. The program will focus on historic preservation of historic sites and how it applies to the county trust fund grant program. MCHPTF is providing the speakers and refreshments.

For the Heritage Commission, Mr. Fast handled several issues related to completing the Long Range Plan. The document is needed for grant application proposals, personnel, and other related MCHC business issues. Mr. Fast reported he was also involved with a European museum exhibit with the Bob Moog Foundation. His full report is attached.

Office Report: Ms. Shultz. During the months of July and August, she continued to be busy managing the administrative, clerical and archival responsibilities as well as supervising intern, Kiersten Fuchs.

Archives: Ms. Shultz met with Kristian McMorland, Superintendent of the MC Mosquito Commission on September 3rd. His commission donated a large box of vintage photographs and several reels of 16mm films from the early to mid 20th century to the archives. He has additional photographic materials he will gather together for archival storage in the coming weeks.

Kiersten continued to work on the veteran's files. She created more than 1400 folders and entered those names and information on the spread sheet. The project concluded in August. We met with Charles Jurgensen, the Morris County Veteran's Services Coordinator and gave him a copy of the spreadsheet. He was delighted with the project and appreciates the Heritage Commissions work. Ms. Fuchs also worked on the veterans grave registration card project. She will continue to work on this project as a volunteer during the fall.

Grants/Re-grants:

Our final report for the NJHC was completed, approved by the county treasurer and sent off to Sara Cureton at the NJHC ahead of schedule. We received our final check from the NJHC for the 2010 re-grant program. A final report is coming due reminder was emailed to the re-grantees. I have processed the paperwork for those organizations that have submitted their final report. We received formal notification from the NJHC that we have been awarded \$20,868 for the 2011 re-grant program. Also, Sara Cureton, the former Chief Grants and Program Officer, has been promoted to Acting Executive Director. Niquole Primiani has been hired as the Chief Grants and Programs Officer.

I have received the final copies of the 2011 grant booklet and the press release from Commissioners Vogt and Kurlander. The documents are scheduled to be presented for signature and acceptance at the September 22 freeholder meeting. Once the documents are signed and accepted, the PR will be sent out and the application booklet will be available on our website.

Marker Program:

Phase I of the Marker/GIS project was completed and delivered to the county GIS team leader in early August. The marker at Acorn Hall has been moved closer to the sidewalk. This allows for more visibility from passing pedestrians and traffic.

Ruth Pace has completed painting of the markers. Her invoice has been processed. Angel Nickens will submit her invoice when she completes her markers in mid September.

The Marker/GIS project is in the hands of the GIS team. Thus far, we have an active map service, an application front-end (what the web users will see) laid out/designed, the spatial point layer of the markers, an image catalog of supporting pictures for each marker site, and a database hosting information regarding your markers ready to go. They will begin to implement code to tie the map/report/images together in a unified application. They expect to begin September 30th with a beta test ready in early October.

Public Programs / Exhibits:

Ms. Shultz presented a program to the Philanthropic Education Scholarship organization in Randolph on August 10th. Copies of our brochure, newsletter and other informational materials were handed out. The program was well received.

Ms. Shultz has started pulling images for the Schoolhouses of Morris County Exhibit. She will continue to work on this project as time allows.

The MCHC will be participating in the Morristown Fall Festival again this year. Ms. Shultz will forward the parking materials and other announcements as they become available from the Office of Public Information.

Publications:

The newsletter has been sent to Gene Cass for layout. The first draft should be ready for proofreading this week. The brochure for the 10 Most list has been sent to the publications committee for editing and should be available for Fall Festival.

Subcommittee reports

Archives: Larry Fast. Covered in office report.

Grants/Re-grants: Dave Bogert. Covered in office report

Long Range Planning: Larry Fast. Virginia Vogt will forward copies of the Long Range Plan Draft to the Commissioners.

Marker Program: Kathy Fisher. Covered in office report.

Personnel: Henry Kafel. Through all of our best efforts, we were unable to retain Kiersten Fuchs as part time or seasonal intern. Ms. Shultz has been registered for four management/supervisory workshops.

Publications: Peg Shultz. The newsletter and 10 Most brochures are being reviewed by the Publications Committee.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Covered in office report.

Communications: Virginia Vogt and Peg Shultz. The State of NJ announcing Willow Hall is being considered for the State Register of Historic Places. Several newsletters were received from organizations and from in and out of county. Section 106 notices included Bridge Replacement in Mendham from the State of NJ; Archeological assessment in Washington Twp from RGA for the construction of a new automobile dealership; Wireless antennas in Morris Twp from RGA; Installation of wireless antennas at Dover Town Hall from E²PM.

Old business: None.

New Business: Kathy Fisher. Ms. Fisher is re-drafting the text for the Vreeland Out Kitchen Marker. She expects to have the final text to Ms. Shultz by September 24. The commissioners were in favor of Chairman Fast writing a letter of support for the Millington Schoolhouse register nomination as a private individual. Mr. Fast announced Karen Ann Kurlander will not seek reappointment

Adjournment: 12:35 p.m. a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Shultz, Archivist

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 12, at 9:30** a.m. at the Morris County Cultural Center. Please contact Peg Shultz if you are unable to attend.