

**Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of April 10, 2012**

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Tracey Kinsel, Virginia Vogt, James Woodruff, Dan Beards, Miriam Morris; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz

Absent: Commissioners Farrell and Kafel

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fast at the County Cultural Center at 9:33 a.m. The Open Meeting Statement was read.

Minutes: March minutes were read and approved, with Commissioner Kinsel abstaining.

Financial report: Treasurer Kinsel announced an operating budget of \$27,980 for 2012. However, \$10,000 of this amount is earmarked as match funds for a grant to create preservation planning documents for the county courthouse, and the money will be retained for that purpose. Less than \$900 has been disbursed or encumbered to date.

Freeholder report: None

Chairman's report:

- Chairman Fast reported on the progress of plans to reprint MCHC books (details under Committee Reports).
- He spoke with County Administrator John Bonanni concerning the MCHC commissioner on leave of absence and was informed that the matter remains with the freeholders. Also, he discussed the hiring of an intern under the county's Youth Intern program with the administrator's office.
- Under discussion with the freeholders are the following matters: 1) logistics of returning archives from Morris View to the Cultural Center 2) the sticking vault door 3) the courthouse preservation plan (see financial report).
- Mr. Fast reported on the joint tourism Speedwell-Edison working group and looks forward to the next meeting in April, wherein the Morris County Tourism Bureau will be present.
- He contributed a comprehensive Commissioners' Corner to the newsletter, connecting the work done at Speedwell in the first part of the century to that of Edison's work in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century.
- He scanned the Madison Historic Highlights brochure for inclusion in the MCHC's digital HH collection, suitable for reprinting.

Archivist/acting director's report: Archivist/Acting Administrator Shultz reports the following activities in addition to her work in various committee areas:

- **Building and infrastructure:** Ms. Shultz reports that the ceiling and wall reports in the A room cage are complete, but that the vault door is still sticking.
- **Interns:**
Intern Hefferan continues working with the Greystone blueprint collection, having documented more than four hundred documents.
Intern Avci is working on veteran internment cards, adding 650 records to the database.
- Ms. Shultz reported that Tom Zaccone of the administrator's office has access to a significant WWII military scrapbook which belongs to a county employee. The employee is considering options for the conservation and preservation of the materials, one of which is accessioning into the county archives. Assistance will be needed to index and preserve the collection.
- Ms. Shultz is preparing for 2011 grant visitations next week.

Committee reports:

Archives: James Woodruff, Chair Intern work on archival collections continues, and plans are being made to return archives from Morris View. Archivist Shultz cited the need to move microfilm cabinets to achieve 18-inch clearances from sprinkler system. She and Chairman Fast are discussing plans to reclaim the entire 'A' room for Commission use.

Commissioners Woodruff and Morris examined and approved the ceiling repairs.

Grants/Re-grants: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Ms. Shultz reports that site visits will take place in April.

Exhibits/Programs: Jim Woodruff, Chair

Commissioner Woodruff has identified two potential speakers on one-room schoolhouses, Mary Prendergast and Becky Hoskins. Neither can commit to a spring program but may be scheduled for September. Ms. Shultz is working on a June program of speakers who will present their experience writing and publishing historical publications.

Long-Range Plan: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Year Two of long-range plan is in effect.

Personnel: Henry Kafel

No report.

Publications: Virginia Vogt and Epsy Farrell, Co-chairs

Chairman Fast shipped Herman Baron copies of Commission books for possible sales and distribution through Diane Publishing. He worked with author David Mitros on correction of *Gone to Wear the Victor's Crown* and sent them to Baron for evaluation.

Ms. Shultz reported that the newsletter is in design. A meeting to discuss improving workflow and process is planned.

Markers: Dan Beards, Chair

Commissioner Beards has examined a stone arch culvert dating from the Morris Canal. In terms of visibility, access and significance, he deems the sit eligible for a MCHC marker. A vote was taken and the marker will be scheduled.

Chairman Beards also recommended that a marker be granted to the Bethel African Methodist Church of Morristown. The early church, although no longer extant, was an important cultural institution in the early history of Morristown's black community. A vote was positive, and the marker will be granted. Commissioner Beards will remind the group that the Commission is the final arbiter on the sign's historical accuracy and content.

Communications: Secretary Vogt

Various newsletters and announcements were received and noted.

Old Business: none

New Business: The New Jersey Historical Commission is asking all organizations in the historical community to participate in the 350th year celebration of the state of New Jersey in 2014.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Vogt, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.