

## **Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes Meeting of January 12, 2010**

**Present:** Commissioners Larry Fast, Dave Bogert, Epsey Farrell, Tracy Kinsel, Karen Ann Kurlander, Virginia Vogt, James Woodruff; archivist Peg Shultz; Freeholder liaison Jim Murray.

**Absent:** Kathy Fisher, Henry Kafel.

The annual reorganization meeting called to order at the Morris County Cultural Center at 9:36 a.m. by Ms. Shultz. The Open Meeting statement was read. The election of officers for 2010 took place, with the following results: Mr. Fast, chairman; Mr. Kafel, vice chairman; Mr. Kinsel, treasurer; Mrs. Kurlander, secretary. Mr. Murray will continue as Freeholder Liaison. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Fast. A resolution setting 2010 meeting dates was read and approved.

**Minutes:** December minutes were read and approved.

**Subcommittee appointments:** Ms. Farrell became an alternate for Re-grants; Mr. Woodruff also joined that committee. All other committees will stay as in 2009 pending absent commissioners making their wishes known.

**Financial report,** Mr. Kinsel. We left only \$5,800 on the table in 2009, an excellent job of managing the budget under changing and challenging circumstances. The Commission is trying to spend as little as possible during the first quarter until the 2010 budget is approved.

**Freeholder's report, Freeholder Murray.** The Freeholders reorganization meeting was held January 6. Mr. Murray reported the Commission does a great job; he specifically mentioned the re-grant program. He has been reappointed as liaison. He is running for reelection as Freeholder this year and hopes he will be back to work with the Commission.

**Chairman's report,** Mr. Fast. December is traditionally quiet; his responsibilities mostly involved being there as a sounding board or providing advice to Ms. Shultz on ongoing issues (the grant program, the remaining Historic Highlights brochures, intern applicants, further discussions about the long-range plans for the archives and offices, the PARIS projects wish list, new storage furniture in the vault, and a Section 106 objection letter to the FCC regarding a National Register site and proposed cell transmitter installation in Millington). He thanks his fellow commissioners and staff for their support in this past year. His full report is attached.

**Office report, Ms. Shultz.** She has been preparing a detailed "wish list" for PARIS grant funding, including various storage furnishings, additional document digitizing, and a Facility/Needs Assessment to help the architects design a proper storage space for now and the future. The dedication plaque from the Greystone CAC building is now in the Commission vault. Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom has proposed the archives be moved to the Morris Museum, which is in financial distress. Ms. Shultz met with museum personnel and determined appropriate space doesn't exist there. Also, government materials can't be stored in non-government, private non-profit facilities; if we made the move, we'd lose all PARIS funding. NJ DARM and CARMA both called this proposal unprecedented. Ms. Shultz will write a summary for Freeholder Nordstrom. All 39 municipalities' Historic Highlights brochures are now essentially complete. The next newsletter is being drafted. It was proposed to replace the administrator's message with a "commissioner's corner." Paperwork for the civil service exam for the archivist title was sent to Trenton in November. It may be six months before the exam date is determined. Her full report is attached.

### **Subcommittee reports:**

**Archives:** Larry Fast. Ms. Shultz prepared a "wish list" for PARIS funding, including continued scanning of documents, mesh shelves for Morris View and the Cultural Center, and a map case stand.

**Grants/Re-grants: Dave Bogert.** Contracts have been sent to re-grantees in December are expected back by week's end. Ms. Shultz has started the interim report for the NJHC and will soon start the 2011 grant letter of intent and application.

**Long Range Planning: Kathy Fisher**

Nothing to report.

**Marker Program: Kathy Fisher**

Nothing to report.

**Personnel: Henry Kafel**

The Personnel Committee will need to complete the Performance Appraisal for Peg Shultz no later than January 29, 2010. Intern Kiersten Fuchs will start after the Farleigh Dickenson University spring semester starts. The other candidate is still "pending" due to a family emergency.

**Publications: Karen Ann Kurlander**

The Rockaway Township Historic Highlights brochure is at the printer. The Mine Hill/Victory Gardens HH brochure is near final proof stage. Most expenses outside of David Mitros's fees for Mine Hill/Victory Gardens will hit the 2009 budget.

**Public Programs/Exhibits: Virginia Vogt**

Peg has been working with Shelly Heretyk of Washington Twp. Historical Society on an archives program with Joseph Ciccone to be presented on March 3 (snow date March 4). The Heritage Commission will cover the presenter's fee of \$300, meeting room reservation, and PR. The Washington Twp. Historical Society will take care of registrations, refreshments, and room set-up.

**Communications:** Section 106 matters: The Department of the Army to the HPO re: Building 119 at Picatinny Arsenal, housing being renovated to a social service office with upgrades done in-house; from the HPO that the Morristown station renovation has no adverse effect; from the FCC, notice that the Section 106 filing re: T-Mobile co-location at Millington Station, Long Hill Road, Millington, has been updated; from EBI Consulting, T-Mobile proposes a tower at 95 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Morristown, a flush-mount on the Morristown Hospital building. Thank you from Washington Township for the grant; a call for nominations from Preservation NJ for the "10 Most Endangered Sites" list.

**Old business:** Covered in various reports.

**New business:** The Morris County Court House steps were discussed. Mr. Fast has spoken to Ray Chang. If this were a grant applicant, we'd require a historic consultant. We will send the new Buildings and Grounds person, Chris Walker, a letter encouraging them to hire such a consultant. Mr. Bogert suggested we suggest a historic landscape consultant, too. Work would likely require a Section 106 review. The Morris Museum proposal was discussed during the Office Report. Senator Codey has introduced a bill in the NJ Legislature to establish a task force to preserve the original Greystone (Kirkbride) building. The team includes several public members, including a member of the Morris County Historical Society. The MCHS had asked Ms. Shultz (a MCHS member) to be their representative, but the Commission prefers she serve as a representative of the Freeholders if they so wish. Mr. Bogert reported that a year ago a group called "Preserve Greystone" organized; it will get 501(c)(3) status soon. Developers are starting to materialize with interest in the property. The task force is set to exist for six months; it was noted there is nobody with financial expertise appointed to the group. It was decided that we should send Sen. Codey a letter letting him know the Heritage Commission exists.

**Adjournment:** 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ann Kurlander, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 8, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Morris County Cultural Center. Please contact Peg Shultz if you are unable to attend.