

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes

Meeting of May 13, 2014

Present: Chairman Larry Fast, Commissioners Epsey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Joyce Kanigel, Joseph Macasek, Miriam Morris, Kathy Murphy, Elliott Ruga and Archivist/Acting Director Margaret Shultz

Absent: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika and Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo

Call to order: Chairman Larry Fast called the meeting to order at the County Cultural Center at 9:32 a.m. He read the Open Meeting Statement.

Minutes: The draft April minutes were approved as corrected by motion of Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Commissioner Macasek.

Financial report: the MCHC expense report dated May 7, 2014 was attached to the package for May 13, 2014. It was prepared without benefit of IT access. The initial re-grant payments have gone out. Note: Municipal Capital is the new copier leasing company.

Freeholder report: no report, but there has been regular contact between Freeholder DeFillippo, Chairman Fast and Acting Director Shultz.

Chairman's report: attached to the meeting package for May 13, 2014.

- Resumption of liaison with the Morris County Review Board has been going well.
- Also at Edison Historic Park on June 7 an electric car exhibition including Tesla and Edison's own electric car.

Office Report: attached to the meeting package for May 13, 2014.

- Archive relocation: Commissioner Farrell suggested Glen Alpin and subsequently made arrangements for the Commission to visit the building on Thursday, May 22 at 9:30 a.m.
- Re-grant program for 2015: Acting Director Shultz is hoping to resolve issues with the administration of the NJHC SAGE system so that the freeholders will accept the next round of funding.

There was a brief recess to move parked cars out of a work zone.

Committee reports:

Archives: Kathy Fisher, Chair

See Archivist/Acting Director's report. No further information.

Grants/Re-grants: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

See Archivist/Acting Director's report. No further information.

Long-Range Plan: Chair: The committee will consist of Epsey Farrell, Kathy Fisher and Kathy Murphy, with Commissioners Farrell and Fisher as co-chairs. There has been no further action on the plan.

Marker program: Kathy Fisher, Chair

- Kinnelon Butternut Tree: the parties are waiting for interpretation of the DNA results.

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- The summer repainting program will resume. Chairman Fast noted that the Lock Tenders House marker at Lake Hopatcong State Park needs painting.
- Commissioner Murphy mentioned that there will be an application for a new marker for the Seward House.
- Commissioner Fisher added that there may be an application for a marker at the Taylortown Quarry in Montville commemorating the quarry and the Italian immigrants that worked there.
- Commissioner Fisher reported that she had received a follow up e-mail about the incorrect information on the marker for the Silas Riggs house in Ledgewood. Application for new markers would take precedence over replacement.

Personnel: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

No report.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

No further action.

Publications: Elliott Ruga, Chair

See Archivist/Acting Director's report. The intern, Kierston Paine, is highly qualified and effective. Commissioner Ruga will provide her with information to facilitate converting Word to e-publication format. Proofreading is done through Chapter 8. Commissioner Farell cautioned that the book needs to be published before the end of the Civil War Bicentennial.

Old Business:

Morris Canal Pier removal/protection in Denville: the meeting will be on June 19. See the Canal Society, *On the Level*, newsletter for an update.

New Business:

Commissioner Fisher brought up the question of the current status of updating the Acroterian Report by the Planning and Development Department. Several sites appear to have been omitted in the Montville area alone, such as the Morris Canal and there is a general non-availability of information to the MCHC and the public. A new company (Richard Grubb and Associates) has been awarded the contract to do the Phase III survey by the county. The freeholders have changed since the project started. Chairman Fast will speak with Freeholder DeFillippo and bring the freeholders up to date with the original mission and scope of the report and address what should be the Morris County Historical Commission's continued role in oversight and coordination. The accuracy of the survey is important because municipalities use it in preparing their master plans and for land use planning. The surveys are also used by historians and researchers.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Morris, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 10, 2014** at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.