

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes

Meeting of April 14, 2015

Present: Chairman Larry Fast and Commissioners Esey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Joseph Macasek, Miriam Morris, Kathy Murphy, Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Elliott Ruga and Archivist/Acting Director Margaret Shultz.

Apologies: Joyce Kanigel and Freeholder Director Kathryn DeFillippo.

Call to order: Chairman Fast called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 10:30 a.m. He read the Open Meeting Statement.

Minutes: the minutes for March 17 were accepted as amended: an addition to the February 10, 2015, minutes was accepted.

Introduction: Michael Czuchnicki, Member of the Hanover Township Landmark Commission.

Mr. Czuchnicki spoke about plans for Tercentennial Celebrations. "These events are a part of the Commission's intention to "Brand" the route through the Township and its' over 40 historic sites. Projects will enhance the "Journey through History" by recreating the original forge...."

Commissioner Farrell advised that all dates and claims need to be supported by research. Chairman Fast commended Mr. Czuchnicki's dedication and suggested that the newsletter committee would be willing to review an article submitted by him.

Freeholder Report: no report beyond references in the Chairman's report.

Financial Report: see Expenditure Budget to 4/13/2015 attached to the meeting package for April 14, 2015.

- The Freeholders approve the budget on April 13.
- There has been an expenditure of \$957.17.

Chairman's Report: attached to the meeting package for April 14, 2015.

Chairman Fast and Commissioner Ruga underscored the potential threat to historic preservation in general, and N J Historic Trust in particular, in the upcoming June 2015 budget decision.

Office Report: attached to the meeting package for April 14, 2015

Archives and Facilities

- Phase 2: rolling shelves _ the required estimate from a second vendor is expected shortly. The map cases and microfilm cabinets are to be moved to the "halon" room to allow some growth in the shelving.
- Personnel: Acting Director Shultz has found a suitable job title for her assistant in the state civil service files, but it needs to be adopted by Morris County. This may take two months.
- Acting Director Shultz has been called for jury duty on May 4 and 5, 2015.

Committee reports:

Archives: Kathy Murphy and Joe Macasek, Co-Chairs.

The vendor to supply the microfilm cabinets and high density rolling shelf units will be selected by the county purchasing department.

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

No further report.

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Long-Range Plan: Epsey Farrell, Kathy Fisher, Co-Chairs

Commissioner Farrell acknowledged contributions by Commissioners Ruga and Murphy and requested reports by the other committee chair people.

Marker program: Kathy Fisher, Chair: no report.

- Commissioner Fisher has been attempting to contact the applicant for the Vail Mansion, but without success.
- So that all markers meet the same standards, Commissioner Farrell recommended that MCHC develop, adopt, and make available clear guidelines and procedures for what research is acceptable for use on historic markers.

Personnel: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

Commissioner Nadzeika was planning to discuss Acting Director Shultz's job title with Freeholder Director DeFillippo before approaching Cathy Burd. The title needs to be readied for the 2016 budget preparation.

Public Programs/Exhibits: Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair

No further report

Publications: Elliott Ruga, Chair

- The e-book: Commissioner Ruga spoke with Kristen on April 13 and she is willing to proceed. MCHC does not have the capacity to start another e-book conversion.
- Spring summer newsletter progress was discussed.

Old Business:

No further business.

New Business:

- The Morris Canal Greenway working group met on Monday, March 30, in Little Falls. Progress is impressive. NJTPA is still handling the administration, and is requesting proposal for a replacement statewide coordinator, but with no response so far.
- Commissioner Murphy expressed concern that there appears to be no action following the Open Space Report, prepared for the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust. It recommended that funding be increased to address sustainability and give freeholders flexibility to change with the changing needs. Municipalities have active Open Space committees funding multiple projects.
- Commissioner Macasek will be leading a walking tour of the Boonton Ironworks on Saturday, April 18, 2015.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Morris, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**
at the County Library.

Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.