

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

**Present:** Commissioners Larry Fast, Virginia Vogt, James Woodruff, Esey Farrell, Henry Kafel, Miriam Morris; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz

**Absent:** Commissioner Tracey Kinsel, Daniel Beards

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fast at the County Cultural Center at 9:36 a.m. The Open Meeting Statement was read.

**Minutes:** December minutes were read and approved, with new member Miriam Morris abstaining.

**Organizational session:** New member Miriam Morris has replaced former Commissioner David Bogert, and Commissioner Kathy Fisher is on leave-of-absence. Officers for 2012 were nominated and voted upon. Results: Larry Fast, chairman; Henry Kafel, vice-chair; Virginia Vogt, secretary; Tracey Kinsel, treasurer. Resolution of meeting dates was passed: (second Tuesday of the month with November meeting on the second Thursday). New committee assignments were made and the results recorded by the acting director.

**Financial report:** Treasurer not present. Some of our remaining 2011 operating budget will be used to purchase archival shelving and materials. A final end-of-year report will be issued.

**Freeholder report:** None

**Chairman's report:**

- Chairman Fast reviewed and signed re-grant letters to recipients, and they were mailed in mid-December.
- He put Commissioner Farrell in touch with the Great Swamp Watershed Association's land use committee so they may coordinate objections to the proposed Glen Alpin cell tower.
- He reviewed Ms. Shultz's December work schedule and worked to resolve Commissioner Bogert's and Commissioner Fisher's change of status.
- Chairman Fast will work on a plan to apply to the Morris County Preservation Grant Review Board for grant funds to underwrite preservation guidelines that would protect the historic Morris County Courthouse from random interior and exterior renovations not consistent with its historical significance. A Heritage Commission application would be appropriate, but the Commission has no matching funds available. However, Chairman Fast believes that special freeholder line item funding may be possible. A Letter of Intent is due in February with a filing deadline in March.
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**Archivist/acting director's report:** Archivist/Acting Director Shultz reports the following activities in addition to her work in various subcommittee areas:

- Ms. Shultz attended the freeholders' reorganization meeting, wherein Margaret Nordstrom was sworn in.
- She reports that intern Eric Dietz of Roger Williams University has made good progress on the Veteran Burial Card project.
- Ms. Shultz shared troubling new information on the archives facilities at Morris View. Morris View is now storing a huge amount of old furniture and equipment on the third floor, and this has resulted in a number of adverse consequences:
  - Morris View's storage of old beds and medical equipment is now impinging on the wing designated for the archives.
  - A load study is necessary to ascertain the allowable weight on the third floor, and there is an indefinite hold on the installation of new shelving for the archives, according to Chris Walker of Buildings and Grounds.

- The increased activity on the third floor has resulted in evidence that the archives area is being infiltrated by a variety of unknown persons: there is a missing ladder belonging to the Commission, lights have been found left on in various rooms, and lavatories show signs of use. Ms. Shultz has contacted Drew Lutton, facility administrator, about these issues.

Following Ms. Shultz's report on problems at Morris View, there was a discussion among the commissioners about moving at least the archives' most valuable holdings back to the Cultural Center due to the apparent lack of security.

**Committee reports:**

***Archives: Jim Woodruff, Chair***

(See extensive report on conditions at Morris View, above)

***Grants/Re-grants: Virginia Vogt, Chair***

Ms. Shultz reports that the re-grant contracts were approved by the freeholders in late December and that contracts were mailed out the week of December 19. Disbursement requisitions are being prepared, and Ms. Shultz is working on the interim report for NJHC.

***Exhibits/Programs: Virginia Vogt, Chair***

Planning for next year's programs is underway. Commissioner Vogt invited all to suggest ideas.

***Long-Range Plan: Virginia Vogt, Chair***

As January's meeting ran long, committee chair review of Year 1 Goals was postponed until February's meeting. It was agreed that the long range plan committee will incorporate a review of the Commission bylaws into its goals, perhaps in Year 2.

***Personnel: Henry Kafel***

Commissioner Kafel and the personnel committee have conducted Archivist/Acting Director's annual review and will file it with the county.

***Publications: Virginia Vogt and Esey Farrell, Co-chairs***

Commissioners Vogt and Farrell will work out a publication schedule for the spring newsletter. Chairman Fast continues to work with former County Archivist David Mitros on both electronic and conventional republishing of Mr. Mitros's books.

***Marker program: Kathy Fisher, Chair***

Markers for the Hibernia Church and Museum of Early Trades and Drafts are to be delivered in mid-February, and an invoice for payment to former Archivist David Mitros for writing the text has been processed.

***Communications: Secretary Vogt***

Magazines, invitations, and newsletters were reviewed. Several Section 106 issues were noted.

***Old Business:*** Commissioner Farrell will continue to monitor news on the proposed cell tower site near Glen Alpin.

***New Business:*** After the meeting, Chairman Fast and Commissioner Vogt will accompany Ms. Shultz on an inspection tour of the third floor of the Morris View facility.

***Adjournment:*** The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Vogt, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, at 9:30 a.m.  
Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.