

**Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of June 12, 2012**

Present: Commissioners Larry Fast, Epsey Farrell, Virginia Vogt, Henry Kafel, Dan Beards, Miriam Morris

Absent: Commissioners Morris and Beards; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz

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: May minutes were read and approved, with Commissioners Woodruff and Kinsel abstaining.

Financial report: Minimal expenditures during the month leave us with a balance of \$25,954 (seven percent spent to date). However, \$10,000 of this amount is earmarked as match funds for a grant to create preservation planning documents for the county courthouse. This project has been deferred at the request of the Freeholders until 2013, when it will become a cooperative undertaking of the County Engineering Department, Planning and Development, Parks Department, and the Heritage Commission. A preservation consultant would be selected by the group, utilizing County Historic Sites Director Mark Texel's expertise with historic project public bidding.

Freeholder report: None. It was discussed whether Freeholder Hank Lyon should be receiving minutes.

Chairman's report:

- Chairman Fast reported that the narrative for the 2013 preliminary budget meetings has been written.
- He expressed concern at the absorption of the NJ State Archives into the state treasury department, apparently without consultation with the State Historic Records Advisory Board or the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.
- Chairman Fast continues to nurture the Speedwell-Edison initiative: he spoke with Jon Gertner, author of a history of Bell Labs, about tying the sections of the book on Morris County to Speedwell and Edison history.

Archivist/acting director's report: Archivist/Acting Administrator Shultz is on family leave.

Office Report:

Intern Amanda Hefferan has finished cataloguing the Greystone blueprints and is now clearing out the map cases. New intern Caitlin Black will begin work, concentrating on historic one-room schoolhouses.

Committee reports:

Archives: James Woodruff, Chair

Chairman Fast reported that moving the archives out of Morris View and back to the Cultural Center is on hold, due to the lack of personnel for supervision at the Heritage Commission and because county resources and administration are overburdened with changes on the Freeholder board. Intern Hefferan reported that 1950s roadmaps now being catalogued show interesting aerial views of land layout and property owner names.

Grants/Re-grants: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Interim grant reviews have been completed.

Exhibits/Programs: Jim Woodruff, Chair

Chair Woodruff reports progress in pulling together an early fall program on one-room schoolhouses. He will conduct a meeting with Mary Prendergast and Becky Hoskins. Commissioner Vogt reported that Washington Valley has pictures of its historic schoolhouse, and Chairman Fast suggested Ray Chang in

the county's planning department may have photos in the files from past grant applications for historic schoolhouse preservation projects.

June's program on the writing of history books for publication is ready to go. Chairman Fast will compile a list of registrants, and a follow-up email to history groups will be done.

Long-Range Plan: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Year Two of long-range plan is in effect.

Markers: Dan Beards, Chair

Commission Chairman Fast had copies of text for the new Bethel AME marker for review by the full Commission, written by David Mitros. The group chose the first-listed text and approved it, with the proviso of two fact checks. Also, Denville is initiating the change of an incorrect date on one of its Commission historical markers. The change will be made at its own expense, as the wrong date was Denville's express responsibility.

Personnel: Henry Kafel

Ms. Shultz's review has been completed and awaits signatures.

Publications: Virginia Vogt and Epsy Farrell, Co-chairs

Chairman Fast reported that former County Archivist David Mitros had finally made contact with Diane Publishing, reopening the dialog on behalf of the Commission concerning the reissuing of the Commission's publication *Gone To Wear The Victor's Crown*. It appears the company is experiencing cash flow problems, and the book has been put on temporary hold in the interim. In the meantime, Chairman Fast will work with author Mitros on finding the best scanning price for the creation of an ebook format to be listed with Amazon.

Co-chairman Farrell presented notes from last month's publication meeting on April 10. It was agreed that the newsletter is currently being produced in an antiquated fashion, causing severe timing issues, and that it would greatly benefit from technological and production upgrades. The full report was sent to all. Next steps:

- A firm date for the next newsletter was set for September 3.
- Articles were assigned to Ms. Shultz (Quips and Quotes; re-grant article), Chairman Fast (Telstar anniversary), the summer intern (one-room schoolhouses), Bonnie-Lynn Nadzieka (her upcoming book), Dan Beards (photographing historical sites).
- Chairman Fast and Commissioner Morris will explore an inhouse design program to gain control of the production process.

Communications: Secretary Vogt

Various newsletters and announcements were received and noted.

Old Business: No news on the Harding cell tower.

New Business: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Vogt, Secretary

The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Chairman Fast if you are unable to attend.