

**Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes
Meeting of September 13, 2011**

Present: Commissioners Daniel Beards, Dave Bogert, Larry Fast, Kathy Fisher Tracy Kinsel, Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom, Archivist Peg Shultz

Absent: Commissioners Henry Kafel, Virginia Vogt, Epsey Farrell, James Woodruff

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fast at the County Cultural Center at 9:35 a.m. The Open Meeting statement was read.

Minutes: The July minutes were read and approved.

Financial report: Our operating budget as of July 1 shows a balance of approximately \$15,271 of a total of \$20,075, about 76 percent, yet to be spent. Several major projects will occur in the fall, and one marker scheduled and a second pending approval. All were in favor of purchasing additional wire shelving for the archives with the balance remaining in the 079 account at years end.

Freeholder report: Freeholder Nordstrom informed the commission the department of buildings and grounds will be formalizing plans for the new park. Ms. Shultz will contact Chris Walker and/or Steve Hammond regarding placement of the Society of Colonial Wars plaque honoring Lewis Morris in the park. The need for a Historic Structure Report (HSR) was discussed for the court house. Grant funding for the HSR was discussed. An application from the MCHC to the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust was discussed as an option. Freeholder Nordstrom will discuss with the freeholder board.

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Fast continued to monitor Commission activity surrounding the Commission's re-grant to the Passaic River Coalition. (Details under grant committee report.) Mr. Fast is involved in another grant difficulty between the Morris County Preservation Trust Fund and the PRC and prefers to take a back seat role in the Commission matter. Issues continued with the brochure printing and the final two presentations.
- Chairman Fast advised the Commission there has been a change of leadership at The Planning and Development Department. Frank Pinto will be assuming the directorship of the Department of Human Services and Deena Cybulski will be taking on his former responsibilities.
- County GIS and information systems are interesting in integrating historic resources into a cultural resources website with an iPhone/iPad app. The Commission markers will be the beta test. Additional commission resources will be discussed in the near future as the project moves forward.
- Chairman Fast reported there has been a change in administration at the Morris County Historical Society (Acorn Hall).
- Chairman Fast has been discussing the possibility of reprinting *Gone to Wear a Victors Crown* with David Mitros in a e-book format
- Chairman Fast reported he assisted the archivist with water removal from the Cultural Center following Hurricane Irene.
- Chairman Fast has been having informal discussions with Michael Aron at NJTV regarding the disposition of the NJN archives. Forty years of NJ history comprises the video assets which are currently held in Trenton.

Archivist/acting director report: Archivist/acting director Shultz spent most of her time on various subcommittee matters, including the re-grantee final reports, 2012 re-grant, organizing and preparing materials for the September 22 grant writing workshop and finalizing copy for the next newsletter.

Committee reports

Archives: David Bogert, Chair

Water from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee was sustained in the commission space on the lower level of the Cultural Center. She successfully removed the standing water with the help of Chairman Fast.

Grants/Re-grants: Dave Bogert, Chair

Ms. Shultz reviewed the issues concerning the Passaic River Coalition's difficulties in fulfilling its Heritage Commission re-grant with the commissioners. Problems ranged from requesting lengthy extensions, to being unable to complete its interim and final reports, to the accuracy and suitability of program content. It has been necessary to work constantly with Director of Development Susan Nanney to get these programs on track and moving toward completion. Ms. Shultz completed the final re-grant report to the New Jersey Historical Society Commission with the publications committee providing editing. Ms. Shultz is also working on the contract acceptance for the 2012 grant with various county offices and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Exhibits/Programs: Virginia Vogt, Chair

Ms. Shultz reported she continues work on an online exhibit of area church architecture and history as time permits. She is also working on a grant writing program to be held on September 22 at the Cultural Center. She is also making preparations for the Morristown Fall Festival being held on The Green in Morristown on October 2.

Personnel: Henry Kafel, Chair

Commissioner Fisher brought up the issue of Ms. Shultz's title. The commission agreed her formal title will be archivist/acting director going forward. Freeholder Nordstrom will consult with the county HR department on the status of the pay grade and title change.

Publications: Virginia Vogt and Esey Farrell, Co-chairs

Ms. Shultz has completed Commission's summer/ fall edition of the newsletter. The newsletter will be online for viewing/downloading by the end of the week. The print shop is expected to deliver copies by the end of next week. Chairman Fast has been discussing options for publication of *Gone to Wear the Victors Crown* as an e-book with former archivist David Mitros. Commissioner Bogert would like a meeting with the publications committee to revise the editing process.

Marker program: Kathy Fisher, Chair

Commissioner Fisher is editing the text of the Hibernia Miner's Church. An application for a marker was received from the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts. Commissioner Fisher will prepare draft text for the marker with the expectation the marker can be paid for in the 2011 budget. Commissioner Beards asked about the possibility of moving the marker at Fosterfields to a more prominent location.

Communications: Peg Shultz

The Commission received several Section 106 notifications several newsletters and magazines.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Shultz, archivist/acting director

The next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday October 11, at 9:30 a.m.
Please inform Ms. Shultz if you are unable to attend.