

Morris County Heritage Commission Minutes Meeting of September 12, 2017

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Martin Kane, Larry Fast, Joyce Kanigel, Joseph Macasek, Archivist/Acting Director Margaret Shultz, and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent: John Dunado, Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Esey Farrell, Kathy Fisher (on leave of absence), and Freeholder Director Kathryn DeFillippo.

Call to order: Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:33 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Chair Murphy requested an executive session on personnel matters. An executive session began at about 9:40 a.m. and ended at 9:55 a.m. when the meeting returned to open session.

Minutes: Commissioner Macasek motioned to accept the minutes of July 11, 2017, as amended. Commissioner Kane seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted as amended.

Freeholder Report:

No Freeholder Report for September 12, 2017.

Financial Report:

Archivist/Acting Director Shultz reported that, for the MCHC's 2018 budget, she is planning to factor in expenses for another possible World War I project to commemorate significant events of 1918. She is holding off on the purchase of a new laptop until after the World War I project for this year is finished. Banners for this year's project and exhibition are being prepared. She has gathered 1,200 names of World War I participants, a number that includes 12 women from Morris County.

Chair Report:

Chair Kathy Murphy noted the Morristown Fall Festival for 2017 would be held on September 24 and asked for members to let her know if they could participate. The World War I program will be held at the County Library on October 14, 2017, and members' help is needed there, also.

New shelves and light-filtering shades have been installed in the archives room. This capital expenditure is now complete.

There was discussion of possible changes to committee memberships. The marker committee, events committee and publications committee have been handling a heavy load.

Archivist/Acting Director's Report:

Archivist/Director Shultz discussed some of the activities planned for the MCHC's World War I exhibition scheduled for Saturday, October 14. Locations of displays and activities will be dispersed throughout the County Library. A teacher/reenactor will give a talk about food production during the war. The reenactor's daughter will also play a role as a doughnut server. Copies of popular sheet music and silent movie posters from the period will be on display.

See also the Archivist/Acting Director's Report dated September 12, 2017, attached to the meeting package for September 12, 2017, and to these Minutes.

Archives Report, Amanda Hefferan:

Technician Amanda Hefferan reported that the Morris County Sheriff's Office has asked the MCHC to compile a history of the sheriff's office. Some material has been delivered, and she is starting to organize it. Amanda attended a workshop in Philadelphia on the conservation of rolled and oversized materials.

Committee reports:

Long-Range Plan, Epsy Farrell, Chair, and Kathy Murphy, Acting Co-chair

Tasks outlined in the Long-Range Plan for 2018 will be reviewed at the February 2018 meeting.

Public Programs, Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair:

See Archivist/ Acting Director's report above for a report on World War I program.

Marker Program, Kathy Murphy, Acting Chair:

- Commissioner Fast discussed text for the Millington Railroad Station marker. Director Shultz said she would place the order when the text is finalized.
- Acting Director Shultz noted that the Heritage Commission marker for Whippany Farms has been moved to the front of the Arboretum and is now clearly visible from Hanover Avenue.
- Ruth Pace has continued her work repainting historic site markers.

Re-grant Program, Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika, Chair:

- Director Shultz reported that the MCHC was awarded \$43,520 from the New Jersey Historical Commission to continue our re-grant program.
- The signs for Montville's 2015 re-grant project have been installed.

Publications, John Dunado, Chair:

Materials are being prepared for the World War I program scheduled for on October 14. The various County Library departments are also putting together some printed information.

Miscellaneous

Chair Murphy noted that the County Engineering Department will cover the costs associated with installing a historic site marker, to be located near the site of a historic bridge that is being replaced. She will assist with writing the text. The marker will be identical in design to other historic site markers placed by the MCHC. The Heritage Commission will cover future cleaning and painting costs.

- Transfer of ownership of the historic bridge on Openaki Road (Denville) is being offered to a qualified buyer. It is hoped that the iron truss part of the bridge will be removed by a buyer and preserved in a different location. The stone structure below the truss will be destroyed to make way for a new two-lane bridge, to be funded by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. The old bridge is near the site of the Colerain forge.
- Section 106: A replacement for the Rutgers Street Bridge in Dover is being considered.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kanigel
(Substituting for John Dunado, MCHC Board Secretary)

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.**
at the Commission Conference Room at the County Library.

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