

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2018

Present: Vice Chair Larry Fast, Marty Kane, Joyce Kanigel, Joe Macasek, and John Manna; Archivist/Acting Director Peg Shultz and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent/Excused: Kathy Murphy, John Dunado, Epsy Farrell, and Kathy Fisher.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Fast called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:47 a.m. A quorum was not met and a work session began. At 9:59 a.m. Commissioner Macasek entered and a quorum was met. Vice Chair Fast read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the June minutes. Commissioner Kane abstained.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented.

Financial Report:

- The budget line item for appropriation credits has been almost completely acquired. This is due in part to Director Shultz's reestablishing the relationship with the Morristown National Historical Park concession vendor. Additional credits are being acquired from the publicity of the *Lucille Hobbie Artwork* Exhibit in the County Library.
- Billing for the new laptop, projector and CCAHA Workshops has been entered into the special projects and education/training line items.

Chair Report: No report was presented.

Office Report:

- Ms. Shultz reported that Debra Larson has started to reorganize and rehouse the historic site marker files.
- Staff is continuing the exhibition work for Ed O'Rourke from the Sheriff's office on the history of the department.
- Ms. Shultz and Ms. Hefferan met with a constituent interested in donating materials to the county archives. The materials were related to Sussex and Warren counties and were not accessioned. The donor was directed to repositories in Sussex and Warren Counties.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on numerous collections.
- Ms. Shultz reported the Library building plans have been given a place in the oversize material storage.
- Ms. Hefferan is mapping out a plan for the oversize materials.
- Staff responded to multiple research requests.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The FY 2019 re-grant application and instructions booklet was updated. Changes were made to bring the re-grant program in-line with changes made to the program by the NJHC and the recent State Supreme Court decision. County counsel has determined that religious institutions are no longer eligible to receive funds through the Heritage Commission's Re-Grant Program. The application was uploaded to 'Dropbox' for Commissioners' comments.
- County counsel has concluded that the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest is eligible to apply for GOS funds. If they apply for project grant funding, County counsel, MCHC staff and the members of the Commission will review the project prior to submission.
- Pending question regarding the decision sent to Deena Leary are:
 - Can we fund projects for historic burial grounds that are on church property (i.e. First Presbyterian Church, St. Peter's Church cemeteries, Whippany Burial Ground at 1st Presbyterian Church of Whippany, etc.)?
- The 2018 Interim Report was submitted in SAGE and accepted by the NJHC.
- The 2018 re-grant site visit schedule is being drafted.

Marker Program:

- The County Garage found a Morris County historic site entrance marker in the back of their workshop. A new sign and pole will have to be ordered because the bolts could not be removed from the pole. The Commission discussed updating text on the county entrance markers and ordering new markers as part of the MCHC's 50th anniversary.
- The summer marker maintenance marker program is underway. We prepared a list of 13 markers for our sign painter, Ruth Pace, that need maintenance, cleaning, and painting over the summer.
- Staff will attend the historic site marker and interpretive panel dedication ceremony prior to the Freeholder meeting in Mount Olive on July 11.
- Prior to the Freeholder meeting in Roxbury Township, MCHC staff will participate in the Morris Canal at King's Basin historic site marker and interpretive panel dedication ceremony on August 8.

Publications:

- Articles for the summer/fall newsletter are being compiled. A 'Dropbox' folder has been set up for the next edition.
- Vice Chair Fast will be able to do the newsletter layout for the next issue.
- Acting Director/Archivist Peg Shultz has begun to break down the WWI soldiers' spreadsheets by municipalities, so the list can be printed similar to the municipal historic highlights. A larger in-depth production is being considered.

Public Programs:

- The Commission is co-sponsoring and participating in Wharton's 43rd Canal Day Festival. Ms. Shultz continues to use our contact list to share press releases.
- Two lunch-and learn-programs have been scheduled for the summer. The first will be *Helpful Tips for Writing a Successful Grant Application* on July 31. The second will focus on changes to the re-grant program on August 7. Both programs will run from 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
- The 100th anniversary of the WWI Armistice program will be held at the County Library on Saturday, November 10. Speakers from our previous WWI program who have agreed to speak this year are John Torkos, Steve Santucci, and Ron Northrop. The local Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 195 from Chatham will be donating a signed lithograph of WWI flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker by artist Keith Ferris. There will be a dedication ceremony and members of the AFA will invite Mr. Ferris to attend. When we have a firm schedule, we will send out press releases and invitations.
- The Commission staff assisted with the library's EMS Day event. The event drew 300 people, including 151 children.
- The staff has the Lucille Hobbie exhibit in the library. The exhibit will be on view until August 31, 2018.
- On July 20, the Commission will share a table at the 4H Fair in Chester with the County Library.
- Plans have begun for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Heritage Commission in November 2020.

Communications: Several newsletters were received. Three Section 106 notifications were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **September 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.** Please inform the staff if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hefferan
(Substituting for John Dunado, Heritage Commission Secretary)