

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2018

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast (by conference call), Esey Farrell, Marty Kane, Joyce Kanigel (by conference call), Joe Macasek, and John Manna; Acting Director Peg Shultz and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Absent/Excused: John Dunado and Kathy Fisher.

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:34 a.m. She read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes from October 9, 2018, meeting, as amended. Commissioner Manna abstained.

Freeholder Report: No report was presented.

Financial Report:

- Invoices are being entered into the A/P system for payment processing as received.
- An additional book has been sold.
- The MCHC budget proposal for 2019 was submitted and accepted by county administration.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy acknowledged that it has been a busy year for the Commission.

Office Report:

- Ms. Shultz reported that Debra Larson is working on organizing and rehousing the historic site marker files.
- Ms. Shultz and Ms. Hefferan are continuing to work on the Sheriff's Department exhibit for Ed O'Rourke. Sheriff Gannon asked the staff to look in the archives for materials that may show the interaction between eighteenth-century sheriffs, Militia Men, and Continental Army officers. No records have been found to date.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan reported she is continuing to clean and rehouse materials in several collections in the archives.
- A plan has been developed for the oversized materials in room 167.
- Ms. Hefferan attended a matting and framing workshop sponsored by CCAHA on October 4. She will be attending an additional workshop on October 16, which will focus on mold prevention and remediation.
- Several research requests were received and answered.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The FY 2019 re-grant application and instruction booklet was uploaded to the MCHC webpage on the county website. 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 ruling on government-funded grants to churches. County Counsel has determined that religious institutions are no longer eligible to receive funds through the Heritage Commission's Re-Grant Program.
- A new requirement for the 2019 re-grant program asked applicants to submit a Declaration of Intent form (DOI). This proved to be helpful and successful. Ms. Shultz reported we have received 20 DOIs.
- Ms. Shultz is looking for additional outside reviewers as to meet new criteria.
- All 2018 re-grant site visits have been completed with one exception. The Parsippany Historical and Preservation Society did not respond to correspondence, phone calls and several emails to confirm the

site visit appointment. The site visit for Kinnelon Historical Society was held at the MCHC conference room due to poor weather. Plans for visiting the Saint Hubert's Chapel will be made in the spring of 2019.

Marker Program:

- Ruth Pace is finishing up the 2018 marker maintenance.
- A dedication for the Millington Railroad Station was attended by staff, several Commissioners, and representatives from Long Hill Township Historical Society and local government.
- The Commission has received a new marker application for the Dublin neighborhood in Morristown submitted by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. The text has been prepared and wording is being finalized with the organization.
- The road department went to Kinnelon to remove the Butternut Tree marker and found it is missing. Ms. Shultz spoke with Chief John Schwartz, Kinnelon Police Department about the whereabouts of the Butternut Tree marker. Chief Schwartz found the marker in the Kinnelon DPW garage. The mayor would like to display the marker at the Kinnelon Museum. The Commission has agreed that a deed of gift or loan agreement for a long period of time is necessary.

Publications:

- Articles for the newsletter fall edition are being edited and finalized. Vice Chair Fast has started working on the newsletter layout. The Commissioners' Corner is the only article that is outstanding.
- Articles not used for the fall edition will be used for future editions.

Public Programs:

- The Commission hosted a table for the Morristown Fall Festival and the event was very well attended. Approximately 750 people stopped by and engaged with staff.
- On October 13, the Commission will be co-hosting an antique fire truck muster at the County Library. Historic trucks and exhibits have been planned to be the highlights of the day. We are reaching out to the museum at the firemen's home in Boonton to see if they would be interested in participating.
- The 100th anniversary of the 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 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.
 - Exhibit cases will focus on the women's efforts and involvement in the war.
 - WWI Posters will line the gallery hallway.
 - An ambulance driver uniform worn by a local woman in France will be on view. Commissioners will be needed to volunteer throughout the day.

Communications: Several newsletters and four Section 106 notifications were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held in the Commission's Conference Room at the Morris County Library on Tuesday, **November 13, 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)