

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2019

Present: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Secretary John Manna, Joseph Macasek, Martin Kane, and Acting Director Margaret Shultz. Participating by conference call: Amery Vasso and Joyce Kanigel.

Absent: John Dunado (leave of absence), Epsey Farrell and Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan.

Call to order: Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:41 a.m. She read the Open Meeting Statement.

Minutes: The minutes for January 8, 2019 meeting were accepted as amended. Commissioner Manna abstained.

Freeholder Report: No Freeholder Report for February 14, 2019.

Financial Report: Acting Director Shultz noted that Morris County's 2019 budget is not yet final, but is expected to be adopted by early April.

Chair Report: Chair Murphy is preparing the MCHC's annual report to the Freeholders, summarizing the Commission's activities for 2018. Chair Murphy is also working on the Commissioners' Corner column for the next edition of the Heritage Review.

Acting Director's Report: Acting Director Shultz is planning exhibits and scheduling programs, and working on both the 2019 and 2020 re-grant programs. She noted that 2019 grant contracts and payment vouchers are being processed. She has submitted a letter-of-intent for the 2020 re-grant program via SAGE. A "Lunch and Learn" program is being planned for August to help potential re-grant applicants learn grant writing basics.

Archive Collection Report, Amanda Hefferan: Acting Director Shultz reported that Amanda is continuing to work on cleaning and organizing the MCHC's collections.

Committee reports:

Public Programs

- Public programs for 2019 are in development.
- Peg Shultz will give a presentation on Sunday, March 3, to the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Schuyler Hamilton House in Morristown. The presentation will focus on two suffragettes from Morristown, NJ.
- On April 7, Peg Shultz will give a presentation to the Morristown, Parsippanong, and Ferro Monte chapters of the DAR on the history of the Morris County Courthouse and the restoration of Lady Justice. The program will be held at the Morris County Library.
- The MCHC will co-sponsor a public program with the Morris County Library on April 29 on George Washington and the Revolutionary War.
- On May 23, "Remembering the Revolutionary War" will be presented at the Morris County Library. The MCHC will co-sponsor the program with the MCL.
- A library exhibit titled "Ties that Bind" is being set up to celebrate Black History Month. The exhibit was funded in part, through the re-grant program.
- Peg is planning to do two lunch and learn programs over the summer focused on changes to the regrant program and grant writing basic tips and strategies.

Marker Program

The staff has been busy with the Dublin Marker arrangements and 2019 marker proposals.

- The road department will be installing the Dublin Marker in Morristown the last week of February. A dedication ceremony for a historic site marker and two interpretive panels for Morristown's historic Dublin neighborhood Scheduled for Sunday, March 3. The event is being presented by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County and will take place at the corner of Madison Street and Macculloch Avenue. These interpretive panels were funded through the re-grant program.

- Ms. Shultz reported that new historic markers planned for entrance sites to the County will be larger-sized, and more rectangular in shape, than the MCHC's standard historic site markers. Since traffic patterns have changed in the years since the original entrance markers were placed (around 1975), locations for the new county entrance markers will be up for discussion. The text will be updated.

Grants/Re-grants: Subcommittee Chair Kane reported the re-grants program is in a hiatus period. Participants who have comments should submit them.

Publications: Subcommittee Co-Chair Fast reported that the newsletter is coming along, with Chair Kathy Murphy working on the Commissioner's Corner column; all will be pending review by Commissioner Farrell.

Long-Range Plan: Ms. Shultz has been working with Commissioner Farrell on Long Range Plan updates and revisions for 2019-2021. Topics include addressing technical issues, exhibits, programs, and the newsletter.

Miscellaneous

- Commissioner Macasek reported that the Canal Society is working with the MCHC to present the annual History Symposium, which has drawn a good audience in the last few years. The preferred location continues to be the Haggerty Center at the County Arboretum. Acting Director Shultz will see if the event can be scheduled there.
- Commissioner Macasek also noted the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority/Morris Canal Greenway Working Group are discussing options for administering and marketing the planned state-wide Morris Canal Greenway. Ms. Shultz suggested getting in touch with Sara Cureton, Director of the State Historic Preservation Commission, for her comments on the topic.
- Commissioner Manna announced a date for Wharton's 2019 Canal Day Festival. This annual event will be held on August 24 at Hugh Force Canal Park in Wharton. He also noted a newspaper report on the sale of Hamilton Farms, a long-standing operation located between the Morris Canal and Tourne County Park.

New Business: No new business was brought to the table.

Correspondence: Subjects of Section 106 notices received by the MCHC include a bridge at Waterloo Village; a bridge on Washington Valley Road; and a site of a proposed development on the Denville/Rockaway border.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kanigel (substituting for Secretary Manna)

The next Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.**
at the Commission Conference Room at the County Library.

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