

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2019

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

Absent/Excused: John Dunado (leave of absence)

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 for May 14, 2019. Commissioner Kanigel abstained.

Financial Report:

- Invoices for annual membership fees are being processed.
- The budget for training has been satisfied. The line item was increased from 2018. Commissioner Farrell suggested budgeting additional funds in the future.
- Office supplies and items for the 50th anniversary have been purchased.
- The challenge coin for the 50th anniversary will be designed and submitted for an order.
- The Commission has had an increase in book sales and researcher fees in 2019.

Chair Report:

- Chair Murphy attended the Canal Society meeting held at the Cultural Center in May. A special guest representing the national canal society in Poland was the guest speaker. Also in attendance were Freeholder DeFillippo, Ms. Shultz, and Ms. Hefferan. Commissioner Macasek was a part of hosting the event and commented on the well-attended presentation.
- Chair Murphy reported that Commissioner Manna has resigned his seat on the Commission.

Office Report:

- Resumes for the part-time History Program Specialist position were received and reviewed. Interviews with candidates are being scheduled.
- Peg Shultz and Amanda Hefferan attended the CARMA-NJ meeting that was hosted in Sussex County.
- The staff attended the County's Memorial Day celebration. Commissioner Vasso was the keynote speaker.
- Ms. Shultz will be attending a focus group involving libraries and history organizations working together in June.

Archives Report:

- Ms. Hefferan continues the cleaning and rehousing projects on numerous collections.
- Ms. Hefferan attended the following workshops:
 - May 15 - Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive
 - May 30 - Preservation on a Shoestring: Creative Solutions for Storage Challenges- Webinar
 - June 5- Disaster Preparedness
- Multiple research requests were received.

Subcommittee Reports:

Grants:

- The Commission is processing the 2019 re-grant payment vouchers upon receipt.
- Ms. Shultz is beginning to prepare the 2019 re-grant interim report for the NJ Historical Commission.

Marker Program:

- The Lake Hopatcong Railroad Station marker text has been drafted. Text is expected to be finalized by late June/early July.
- The new county entrance marker text will be drafted by the marker committee and staff over the summer.
- The number of markers, locations, and text will be presented by the marker committee at the July meeting.
- The annual marker maintenance list is being prepared.

Publications:

- For the next edition of the *Heritage Review*, a Bakelite article will be included to connect with the public program we are co-hosting. Other articles include Spanish flu pandemic, floating classroom, and suffragist movement in Morris County. Commissioner Fast has agreed to do the Commissioners' Corner. Any of the major articles will have a word count around 750 words. All articles are due by July 1st.
- There were additional article topics proposed, including Prohibition and speakeasies, new county markers, Lee's Pavilion, historical scandal stories, and the Commission 50th anniversary. These topics will be used in future editions of the newsletter.

Long-Range Plan:

- With the addition of the History Program Specialist, appropriate sections of the Long-Range Plan will require editing.
- Commissioner Farrell will do final proofs. All changes will be uploaded onto Dropbox.

Public Programs:

- The staff will be assisting the County Library with the First Responders program on June 25.
- *Remembering the Revolutionary War* program has been rescheduled to July 22 due to weather issues. The MCHC is co-sponsoring the program with the MCL.
- Peg is planning to do two lunch-and-learn programs on August 20 and 24. The programs will focus on changes to the re-grant program and grant writing basic tips and strategies.
- On October 5, the Haggerty Center has been reserved for the presentation about Bakelite. The Commission will be funding lunch.
- The Commission plans to attend both the Wharton Canal Day and Morristown's Fall Festival.
- Ms. Shultz is working on program themes for the coming 50th anniversary celebration.
- An exhibition schedule has been created. Currently, the flag exhibit has been installed. The next exhibit will feature Pathways of History.

Communications: Several newsletters and event notifications were received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held on the Floating Classroom being launched from the Lake Hopatcong Museum and state park on Wednesday, **July 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** Please inform the staff if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hefferan
(Substituting for Heritage Commission Secretary)