

Morris County Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

(via conference call)

Present via conference call: Chair Kathy Murphy, Vice Chair Larry Fast, Treasurer Epsey Farrell, Marty Kane, Joe Macasek, Secretary Carol Barkin, John Dunado, T.C. McCourt, Amery Vasso, Director Peg Shultz, Archives Technician Amanda Hefferan, History Program Development Specialist Nick Palatucci

Absent/Excused: None

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Murphy called the meeting to order at the Morris County Library at 9:37 a.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the February 11, 2020, meeting.

Financial Report: There have been no changes between mid-March and June 8 due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Chair Report:

- Kept in touch with the Director during the out-of-office period for return to work and other county-related updates.
- Long-range planning is in progress.

Office Report by Peg Shultz:

- The Heritage Commission staff returned on June 8 and has been busy re-opening the office and reestablishing mail delivery from the post office and the county mailroom. The library staff has not returned to work.
- Meetings with county IT personnel to set up on-line meetings are being scheduled.
- Staff is reviewing the MCHC web page content with the Office of Public Information.
- The director is working with the Treasury Department to establish a credit card payment method.
- Public programs will remain on hold due to COVID-19.
- 50th -anniversary celebration may continue in late October with a cake-cutting.
- 50th -anniversary programming will be rescheduled for 2021.
- The grant-writing workshop scheduled for August is on hold and may be moved online.
- Grant contract/ voucher processing slowed due to the COVID-19 shutdown is being reestablished.
- Personnel mid-year reviews will be conducted in July.
- Fall Festival on the Morristown Green is expected to take place on Sunday, October 4.
- Revolutionary Times will take place virtually on July 4 on Morristown National Historical Park's Facebook page.

Archives Technician Report: Amanda will resume processing archival materials and research requests.

History Program Development Specialist Report: All public programs are on hold. The Hurd Park marker application is under review. The May minutes are being transcribed and will be distributed by email before the July meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Marker Program: The application for a historic site marker at Foote's Pond was reviewed by the marker committee and staff. The recommendation was for an interpretive sign rather than a marker. The marker application for the Hurd Park marker is under review.

Public Programs/Exhibits: All public programs and activities are on hold. Anniversary programs will be rescheduled for 2021 whenever feasible.

Publications: Staff and the publications committee have been working on the next issue of the *Heritage Review*. Several articles have been added to Dropbox, including Lee Brothers' Park Pavilion, Women's Suffrage, and Ralston Cider Mill during Prohibition. There will be an *In Memoriam* for Kathy Fisher by Joe Macasek and John Dunado, and a COVID-19 statement from Peg. A special 50th-anniversary newsletter edition is being developed and will be published online only. Larry will provide Telstar material to Amanda for an online newsletter.

New Business:

The county library remains closed to the public and non-county staff.

A year-end review of meetings to "certify" that Heritage Commission monthly meetings were all done within OPMA guidelines is needed.

The meeting was adjourned: 10:37 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. via conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barkin, Secretary