

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MORRIS COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND REVIEW BOARD

**30 Schuyler Place
April 30, 2014**

**Morristown
New Jersey**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Art Palombo, Chairman.

Members present:

Edward Engelbart, At-Large
Janet Foster, Architectural History
Ann Granbery, Historic Landscape Specialist
William Orlandi, Region I
Arturo Palombo, Preservation Architecture
George Shanoian, Region III
John Solu, Building Restoration
Randy Tortorello, At-Large
Lawrence Fast, Morris County Heritage Commission
George Wien, Region II

Member with excused absence:

Mary-Anna Holden, Region IV

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Dept. of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Morris County Planning Director
Jan Williams, Cultural & Historic Resources Specialist
Ray Chang, Historic Preservation Program Coordinator

Members of the Public:

Barbara Eames, Kurt Dinkelmeyer

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Chairman Palombo stated that adequate notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

Chairman Palombo welcomed members Lawrence Fast and Edward Engelbart to the HP Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by member Shanoian, seconded by member Granbery, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Jan. 29, 2014 HP Board meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Foster, Granbery, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Solu, Tortorello, Wien

Nay: None Abstain: Engelbart, Fast

VETERANS COMPENDIUM

Presentation by Jan Williams

Ms. Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist with the Morris County Division of Planning and Preservation, presented the Veterans Compendium to the Board. This on-going project aims to chronicle the services rendered by combat and non-combat veterans born in or buried in Morris County from all branches of the military. Users of the compendium can search by a number of data fields including conflict (e.g. Civil War, Gulf War), branch of the military, battle (e.g. Battle of the Bulge), even the ship/plane associated with the veteran. The compendium is a work in progress and has not been published.

2014 APPLICATIONS

Mr. Chang presented a PowerPoint on the 2014 HP applications to the Board. Each Board member has a handbook with project information and reviewer comments. This year, there are 31 applications requesting a total of \$3,200,575. Board members are given access to a secure area on the HP program website where they can examine additional information on each of the applications.

REVIEW SCHEDULE

Mr. Chang provided the Board with the 2014 grant review schedule as follows:

Saturday, May 10	Whole Board site visit (new sites)
May 12~22	Individual Members site visit ("returning" sites)
Monday, June 2	1st Final Presentations (County Library)-6:30 PM
Wednesday, June 4	2nd Final Presentations (County Library) -6:30 PM
Monday, June 9	3rd Final Presentations (County Library) -6:30 PM
Wednesday, June 11	Board Deliberation (MCP&PW) – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, June 25	Funding Recommendations to Freeholders

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Mr. Chang provided the Board with the County's conflict of interest policy.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Mr. Chang advised the Board that staff is awaiting instructions from the state for filing the financial disclosure statements. The instructions will be provided to the Board when available. Staff will be available to assist Board members with the online filing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kurt Dinkelmeyer of Montville Township inquired the amount of funding raised by the Open Space tax this year for HP purposes. Ms. Leary indicated the amount was \$2.2 million. Mr. Dinkelmeyer asked if the full amount would be spent. Chairman Palombo explained that the Board will scrutinize each application and the review process would be administered in an open and transparent way. Mr. Dinkelmeyer asked if the Board is obligated to spend the entire amount. Chairman Palombo responded that the funding recommendations will be at the Board's discretion.

Mr. Dinkelmeyer inquired if the Montville Township Morris Canal application involves planning activity to be followed by construction. Chairman Palombo explained that this project is a preservation planning application, and that most of the HP projects go through a planning stage before requesting funding for construction. Mr. Dinkelmeyer asked if a match is needed from the Township for this application. Chairman Palombo indicated that a 20% match is required.

Mr. Dinkelmeyer commented on the funding of religious institutions from the Historic Preservation Trust Fund. He believes that the funding of religious institutions from the Historic Preservation Trust Fund is in conflict with the New Jersey Constitution. Member Engelbart noted that much of Morris County's rich history involves religious institutions. The HP program provides assistance for the exterior of religious institutions. Member Fast added that all sites considered for funding must be listed or deemed eligible for listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. All these historic resources make important contributions to the fabric of the communities. Chairman Palombo stressed that the Board has a clear outline of the eligible activities for religious institutions.

Ms. Barbara Eames inquired if the Board handbook is available for the public. Ms. Leary responded that she will consult with legal counsel to determine if the handbook could be released in full. Ms. Eames asked if the Board had considered the appropriateness of funding religious institutions. Chairman Palombo noted that historic religious institutions are an important fabric of the community. In fact, many places of worship may turn into community buildings in the future. The HP Board is charged with evaluating each of the historic site applications on a case by case basis. Member Engelbart added that many religious organizations provide community outreach, such as soup kitchens, AA, Boy Scouts, etc.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is the Board's site visit scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2014 starting at the Office of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey at 8:30 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by member Engelbart, seconded by member Fast, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Chang, P.P.
Historic Preservation Program Coordinator