

NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST

NJHT Board of Trustees Meeting Wednesday, June 21, 2017 Historic Cold Spring Village Lower Township, Cape May County

Call to Order

Ms. Foster called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Open Public Meetings Act

Ms. Guzzo notified the Board that notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

Roll Call

Ms. Guzzo called the roll and confirmed the meeting had a quorum.

Trustees present: Janet Foster, Deborah Kelly, Peter Lindsay, Katherine Ng, Patricia Anne Salvatore, Katherine Marcopul, Robert Tighue, and Sean Thompson.

NJHT Staff present: Dorothy Guzzo, Glenn Ceponis, Catherine Goulet, and Carrie Hogan.

Also present: Jake Buganski, Acting Director New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism and Allison Trimarco (via phone at 11:01).

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Foster asked if anyone had comments on March's meeting minutes. There being none Ms. Salvatore made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Tighue. The motion passed unopposed.

Public Comment

No public Comment.

Communications

Ms. Guzzo referenced a number of thank you letters in the Board packet from grant recipients thanking the Historic Trust and the 1772 Foundation for their grant awards

Reports of Officers

Chair:

Ms. Foster reported that there has been a lot of activity since the March Board meeting including attending a State budget hearing in Lodi. Also, Ms. Foster and Mr. Lindsay attended the dedication of the Perth Amboy Surveyor's General building. Ms. Foster reported on the

community's commitment to historic preservation. Additionally, Ms. Foster reported on the May 11th NJ SHPO preservation awards in which the NJ Historic Trust received a preservation award for its *Jersey Through History* website. Ms. Foster recapped the 50th Anniversary event held at the Cornelius Low house in Middlesex County. The event celebrated the anniversary of the establishment of the NJ Historical Commission, the Historic Sites Council, and the NJ Historic Trust. The event including afternoon tours of the Johnson & Johnson complex in New Brunswick and terra cotta architecture in Perth Amboy as well as a keynote talk by Max Page. Members were also encouraged to attend other upcoming events at Tuckerton Seaport and Tewksbury Township.

Vice Chair

No report.

Treasurer:

Mr. Tighue referenced the Treasurer's report in the Board packet. Mr. Tighue went through the report. Specifically, Mr. Tighue reported the availability of \$5,356,000 for upcoming grant rounds. A portion of this is from the Trust's allocation of Diesel mitigation funds. Mr. Tighue reported that the Historic Trust is closing out the fiscal year in the black.

Secretary:

Ms. Ng reported that she and Mr. Perks attended the dedication at the Glover Mill site in Haddon Heights Borough. Ms. Ng emphasized that attending these types of events is a great way to support the work of the Trust and demonstrate its programs to the general public.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Guzzo referenced her report and the staff's report included in the Board packet. Ms. Guzzo reported that Trust staff has been very busy with the current grant round and preparing for the 50th Anniversary event. Ms. Guzzo reported that the Trust should reexamine its Bylaws and other policies in preparation for next year's transition to a new administration. These documents should be readopted or revised. All the policies and procedures are in place however it is just good practice to occasionally review and update if necessary. Ms. Foster asked Ms. Guzzo to send the documents to the Board members for review.

Ms. Guzzo reported that she was contacted by Rutgers regarding a visit by a group of preservation professionals from China. Their visit will be on September 21 and 22 and we were asked to provide an overview on preservation practice in the United State and suggest sites for them to visit. It was suggested that we reach out to the Thomas Edison National Historical Park and Ellis Island as possible places to visit. Ms. Kelly asked if there any information on the recent announcement by the Administration on spending \$13 million to demolish 500 buildings in Trenton. The NJ HPO is reviewing the plan to see if there is a historic district or individually listed buildings. Mr. Thompson responded that the funding for the project was coming through HMFA. He mentioned that the project was trying to address crime through the removal of deficient housing.

Report of the Department of Community Affairs

Mr. Thompson reported that all departments are doing assessments in preparation for the new administration. Candidates will be reaching directly out to State offices as well.

Report of the Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Marcopul reported that her office is trying to finish up a number of projects. In June the HPO hosted the National Park Service regional workshop on flood adaptation. The National Park Service is organizing additional regional workshops in the Southeast and Midwest in an effort to try to develop national guidelines on how to adapt historic buildings to flooding. Ms. Marcopul reported that it was very beneficial to work with other SHPO offices and the National Park Service on this topic.

Ms. Marcopul also reported that the State acquired part of the Princeton Nursery site in South Brunswick Township. This included two large warehouses associated with the historic nursery. They developed a process for rehabilitation and to review potential uses. This could be used as a model for the reuse of other state-owned historic buildings.

Report of the Department of Treasury

No report.

Report of the Executive Committee

The report will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan discussion.

Report of the Grants & Loans Standing Committee

Ms. Kelly referenced the Grants & Loans Committee Report in the Board packet. Ms. Kelly asked if there are any conflicts with any projects scheduled for discussion – there were no conflicts.

Ms. Kelly reported there was one request for extension from the Ocean City Lifesaving Station. Ms. Goulet reviewed the request for extension. The Grants & Loans Committee recommended granting the extension to February 2018, seconded by Mr. Tighue. The motion passed by voice vote.

Open Grants

Mr. Ceponis provided a brief update on the progress at East Point lighthouse, specifically detailing the upcoming HVAC and lantern repainting project. Ms. Kelly reviewed some additional open grants and reported no major issues.

Sandy Grants

Ms. Kelly reported no major issues and the projects continued to progress.

FY 15 CBT Grant Round

It was reported that FY15 funding bill passed the both the Assembly and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature (signed on July 13th).

FY 18 Preserve NJ Grant and Cultural Trust Rounds

It was reported that the reviewers and logistics for the grant round are set for September. There will be three different teams to review the applications (Cultural Trust capital grants, Preserve NJ planning grants, and Preserve NJ capital grants). Ms. Kelly invited any interested Board members to come to the evaluator's conference in September.

1772 Foundation Grants

It was reported that the 1772 Board met and approved all of the Trust's recommended projects except for the former US Coast Guard Motor Life Boat. The 1772 Foundation reported that it did not want to fund the restoration of boats. Therefore, the funds allocated to the former Coast Guard boat went to the next project in line – the Merchants & Drovers Tavern. The Cape May Maritime Museum also submitted a Preserve NJ grant for the restoration of the former Coast Guard boat, which will be reviewed and evaluated this fall.

Discover New Jersey History License Plate Fund

Ms. Kelly reported that the Grants and Loans Committee recommended a slight change in scope to the Atlantic Highlands grant award. Ms. Salvatore seconded the motion and the motion passed. Ms. Kelly reported that the Committee reviewed three new license plate grant applications. The Committee recommends funding the Camden County Historical Society application for \$5,000 and funding the Montclair History Center for \$4,885. Mr. Tighue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kelly reported that the next phase of marketing the license plate began. It is focused on messaging. The firm expects to work on this aspect from May to November, while the whole process for this phase will continue into next year. The consultants are currently interviewing license plate holders to better understand why they picked this plate. It was also noted that it is still difficult working with the Motor Vehicle Office and it is very important to try and work with them to improve the system for purchasing license plates. Ms. Kelly conveyed that the Committee is very excited about this project moving forward.

Ms. Guzzo discussed that our regulations will need to be updated based on the Preserve New Jersey legislation that is now law; however, at this time the Trust is working with DCA representatives to readopt its current regulations because there was not sufficient time to go through the full revision process. Board members should review the drafts in order to discuss how to change the statutes and incorporate both emergency intervention and purchasing of easements in the future. We really need to think about process and policy. In the future the Trust will probably pull together stakeholders in order to get feedback. We will be able to amend our regulations at any time so we wait for guidance from the new Administration. Mr. Tighue suggested reaching out to the Appraisal Institute regarding historic preservation easements.

Report of the Easements and Acquisitions Standing Committee

Mr. Ceponis referenced the Easement Committee's report included in the Board packet. Mr. Ceponis reported that now that the Trust has the legislative authority to purchase preservation easements through the Preserve NJ Act, he and Ms. Guzzo met with representatives of Green Acres to discuss the process for purchasing preservation easements. Mr. Ceponis stated that the Easement Committee will plan to meet later in the year to further discuss this process.

Report of the Combined Strategic Planning and Legislation and Policy Standing Committees.

Ms. Trimarco joined the meeting by phone to discuss the Strategic Plan. There were no additional comments from the Board. Mr. Kelly stated that the Board felt comfortable with the plan. Ms. Foster stated that the Trust has turned the corner and will move forward as a successful organization. The plan is a very important guide for the Trust and that it will take much work to make it happen. There was discussion of putting a one page summary of the strategic plan on the Trust's web site. Ms. Kelly made a motion to adopt the Strategic Plan, seconded by Ms. Salvatore. The motion passed with no opposition. Ms. Kelly and the Board thanked Ms. Trimarco for helping the Trust through the process. Ms. Trimarco stated that over the summer the Executive Committee should discuss implementation of the plan as should other committees.

Ms. Foster also reminded the Board to review the draft of the Board rolls and responsibilities included in the Board packet. Briann Greenfield, Executive Director of the NJ Council for the Humanities provided assistance with developing Board responsibilities. The Board should look to adopt the Board descriptions by the fall meeting. Additionally, Board members should review the Board chart and committee structure. The committees should revise the committee descriptions as necessary and be prepared to adopt them in the fall.

Report of the Education and Outreach Committee

The Committee's report was referenced in the Board Packet. Ms. Forster mentioned that Felician College was interested in developing a preservation program, but that it did not have the infrastructure in place to move forward at this time. It was mentioned that the M.A.R.C.H. program at Rutgers Camden is moving forward with its certificate program in historic preservation. As previously discussed the Trust will develop an MOU with M.A.R.C.H. to detail its partnership including Trust contributions to the program as well as Trust staff being able to attend classes in the program among other items

Ms. Guzzo reported on the funders' workshop held in April in Cherry Hill. Overall the workshop was good and included opening remarks from Nina Stack from the Council of NJ Grantmakers. The workshop noted that 90% of available funds are not published, so it is a matter of figuring out where to look. Ms. Guzzo reported that the workshop will be offered again in the fall in Morris County.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

Public Comment:

Mr. Jake Buganski, the Acting Executive Director of the NJ Office of Travel and Tourism was welcomed by Ms. Foster and the rest of the Board. Mr. Buganski stated that he came to Travel and Tourism in December of 2016. While Travel and Tourism hasn't always spoken about preservation of sites he conveyed the significance of maintaining the authenticity of New Jersey's heritage sites. The focus of state tourism marketing has been the shore, but Mr. Buganski would like to leverage the heritage of the shore communities within this marketing. This could open the door to discussing heritage tourism throughout the state. The office is currently researching how diverse its marketing effort should be regarding types of tourism in the state.

Mr. Buganski reported that New Jersey is lagging behind the national average in tourism grants. He also stated that New Jersey dropped from 9th to 12th in overall tourism. He stated that there is little to no local funding for DMO's compared to other states. He believes this greatly impacts the State's ability to market successfully. The Office of Travel and Tourism receives about \$9 million annually from the Hotel/Motel tax, but the tax has no requirement to fund local DMOs and/or tourism through the additional tax collected.

Mr. Buganski praised the *Trust's Journey Through Jersey* website as a great product to reach the public. He stated that his office is working on a new website and will try to link to the *Journey Through Jersey* website. Ms. Kelly brought up the Heritage Tourism Economic Impact Study that the Trust funded a few years ago. Mr. Buganski stated that that study should be included in his office's annual economic impact study so that the study is consistent and all inclusive. There was some further discussion regarding future partnering between the Trust and the Travel and Tourism. The Board thanked Mr. Buganski for coming to the meeting.

New business

Ms. Foster asked for Board members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Salvatore volunteered and will provide a slate of officers for the October Board meeting.

Ms. Guzzo provided an update to the Board on the Freedom From Religion Foundation vs Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders lawsuit. The county was being sued because they fund, through its open space fund, the rehabilitation of historic churches. The FFRF maintains that funding the preservation of churches is against the NJ constitution. The judge found on behalf of Morris County, however, the plaintiff appealed the ruling. Morris County subsequently asked the State Supreme Court to hear the case, by-passing the appellate court. The concern is that the Morris County and the NJ Historic Trust preservation grant programs are very similar and that the outcome of the case can have a potentially significant impact on the Historic Trust's grant programs. Ms. Guzzo reported that she expressed the Trust's concerns to the DCA Commissioner as well as to the Trust's DAG regarding both the initial case and the appeal to the State Supreme Court again because of the potential impact the result can have on the Trust's grant programs. Ms. Kelly asked if the Trust's budget could accommodate DAG involvement with the case. Ms. Guzzo stated that DCA obligates a certain amount of the Trust's

administrative funds for legal services. The Trust's DAG told Ms. Guzzo that her office is monitoring the case and that they may be asked to file an amicus brief. Ms. Guzzo said she will continue to work with the Commissioner's office and DAG regarding this case. Trust Board members agreed with the concern and raised no objections to the Trust's continued involvement.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, Ms. Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Salvatore. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:25.