

NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST

NJHT Board of Trustees Meeting Wednesday, September 19, 2018 Dept. of Community Affairs Trenton, Mercer County

Call to Order

Ms. Foster called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 Marcopul, Kenneth Miller, Katherine Ng, Meme Omogbai (arrived 10:08), Robert Tighue, and Sean Thompson.

NJHT Staff present: Dorothy Guzzo, Glenn Ceponis, Catherine Goulet, Carrie Hogan, Haley McAlpine, and Michele Racioppi.

NJHT DAG: Cameryn Hinton (left meeting at 11:54)

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Election of Officers

Ms. Foster turned the floor over to Ms. Ng, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Ng presented the following slate of officers: Chairperson – Janet Foster, Vice-Chair – Kenneth Miller, Secretary – Katherine Ng, and Treasurer – Robert Tighue. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Ms. Ng made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented, seconded by Ms. Marcopul. There being no further discussion the motion passed without opposition. Ms. Foster thanked the Nominating Committee for their work.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Foster asked if there were any comments or discussion regarding the June minutes of the Board. There being no comment Ms. Kelly moved to accept the June meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Lindsay. Ms. Marcopul and Ms. Omogbai abstained, the motion passed.

Closed Session

Following the approval of the June Meeting Minutes Ms. Foster asked to go into closed session to hear from the Trust's DAG regarding the NJ Supreme Court ruling against the funding of houses of worship. Mr. Miller made a motion to move the meeting into closed session, seconded by Ms. Omogbai. The motion passed unopposed at 10:10. At 11:10 Mr. Miller made a motion to end the closed session, seconded by Ms. Omogbai. The motion passed unopposed and the regular meeting of the Board resumed at 11:19.

Reports of Officers

Chair:

Ms. Foster reported that the Trust has been busy over the last year and commented that the Trust has been making the state a better place. Ms. Foster thanked everyone for contributing to fulfilling the Trust's mission. Ms. Kelly reported that a number of board members met with the Lieutenant Governor. The meeting went well and it was reported that the Lieutenant Governor has a good understanding of historic preservation. Many topics were discussed including the Trust's need for additional funding. The Board conveyed the desire to continue discussions with the Lieutenant Governor in the future.

Ms. Foster asked Board member to attend public events when possible so that the Trust maintains a public presence.

Vice Chair

No report.

Treasurer:

Mr. Tighue referenced the Treasurer's report included in the Board Packet. Mr. Tighue briefly went through the report. Mr. Tighue noted how Treasury has been holding fringe and overhead funds from our budget. It was discussed that this action limits how the Trust utilizes its approved budget because the money is often release too late in the fiscal year for the Trust to utilize it as planned and then the funds revert back to the General Fund. If Treasury continues this practice the Trust needs to increase its annual budget to account for this withholding. Ms. Guzzo brought this to the Lieutenant Governor's attention and she suggested having DCA fiscal request the additional amount, approximately \$244,000 for the Trust's general operating budget. While fiscal will make the request it is uncertain whether it will make it into the final state budget. A number of Board members stated that in order for the Trust to do its job its operating budget needs to be increased because of Treasury's actions in freezing the budget. Board members pointed out that it not an increase, it would just allow us to utilized the full amount of our approved budget. If the increased amount does not make it into the State budget then Board members may have to appeal directly to Legislators to get the increase.

Following the discussion of the budget Mr. Tighue made a motion to accept the Trust's FY 19 Budget, seconded by Ms. Omogbai. The motion passed unopposed.

Secretary:

Ms. Ng reported on the Lieutenant Governor's appearance at one of the Trust's project ground breaking event (Douglass House in Trenton). Ms. Ng reported that the Lieutenant Governor spoke passionately, knowledgably and with a lot of energy at the event.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Guzzo referenced her report, and the staff report included in the Board packet. Ms. Guzzo reported that the Trust's budget is the primary issue. Ms. Guzzo also reported that Trust wrote a Scope of Work for the database upgrade. DCA is also interested in the Trust's new database. The estimate to complete the database is large, so it will likely have to be completed in phases. Upgrading the database is critical to managing the Trust's programs.

Ms. Guzzo also reported that the "On Demand" project is scheduled to be shot November 2nd at Craftsman Farms.

Report of the Department of Community Affairs

Mr. Thompson reported that they continue to draft regulations for the Main Street New Jersey program. Mr. Thompson will make sure that the Trust has an opportunity to review and comment on the regulations. Mr. Thompson also relayed that the Lieutenant Governor has been very engaging and is very interested in historic preservation.

Ms. Foster asked if the new Opportunity Zones will impact the Trust. Mr. Thompson provided a summary of the proposed program. Mr. Thomson stated that there will be seventy-four Opportunity Zones in the state. The regulations are still being developed. Both the Governor's Office and the Lieutenant Governor are involved and supportive of the program. Mr. Thompson thought regulations may be available by November. Ms. Ng thought that this program may fit within our strategic plan's goal of the Trust working more with developers.

Report of the Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Marcopul reported that HPO was waiting to hear back from the National Park Service on the request to extend certain SANDY grants to March (subsequently, the NPS extended all SANDY grant to September 2019).

Report of the Department of Treasury

Mr. Tighue reported that restoration of the Statehouse is on a partial hold, but nothing significant.

Report of the Executive Committee

No report. The Committee will next meet by conference call on October 5th.

Report of the Grants & Loans Committee

Ms. Kelly referenced the Committee's report included in the Board packet. Ms. Foster asked if Board members had any conflicts with these projects. There being no conflicts Ms. Kelly reviewed the following four requests for extension/change in scope: Grant No. 2017.0029 Plainfield

Firehouse No. 4 – change in scope from a feasibility study to a preservation plan; Grant No. 2010.1020 Ramsaysburg Homestead – grant extension to December 31, 2021; Grant No. 2008.2098 Princeton Nurseries – grant extension to December 30, 2020; and Grant No. 2008.2101 Battleship New Jersey – grant extension to December 31, 2019. There being no further discussion Ms. Kelly moved to approve the stated change of scope and/or extensions as presented, seconded by Mr. Tighue. The motion passed unopposed.

Ms. Kelly there briefly reviewed other open grants noted in the Committee report.

2018 Preserve New Jersey Grant Round

Ms. Guzzo provided an overview of the grant round including: the number of applicants, available funds, evaluation process and distribution of recommended grants. Ms. Guzzo noted that the recommended list of projects are distributed throughout the state. The recommended list of projects will be presented to the GSPT Board at its meeting in early October. Ms. Guzzo informed the Board that because of the NJ Supreme Court ruling eight applications were returned to the applicants because the projects were for religious institutions and houses of worship. Ms. Guzzo personally spoke to each applicant to explain the situation and ruling. Trust staff then presented the Committee’s recommended projects to the Board (see list below). The Grants and Loans Committee recommends awarding thirty-three grants totaling \$1,037,621. While this amount exceeded the anticipated amount available for grants, there are sufficient funds available through the Trust’s CBT account and both the evaluators and the Grants & Loans Committee thought the last project was important enough to provide the additional \$37,621 to fully fund the Trust’s portion of the project. With no more discussion, Ms. Kelly moved to award the grants as recommended by the Committee, seconded by Ms. Omogbai. The motion passed unopposed.

Planning Documents	Property	Property	Grant
Project Name	County	Municipality	Request
Fire Station #8	Atlantic	Atlantic City	\$50,000.00
James C. Rose Residence	Bergen	Ridgewood Village	\$37,224.00
Greenfield Hall	Camden	Haddonfield Borough	\$24,352.00
Hangar #1	Cape May	Lower Township	\$29,813.00
Historic Cold Spring Village Historic District	Cape May	Lower Township	\$37,107.00
Judge Nathaniel Foster House	Cape May	Lower Township	\$38,850.00
Cumberland County Courthouse	Cumberland	Bridgeton City	\$50,000.00
Old Stone School	Cumberland	Greenwich Township	\$11,109.00

Moravian Church	Gloucester	Woolwich Township	\$43,186.00
West Jersey Depot Train Station (Glassboro Train Station)	Gloucester	Glassboro Borough	\$7,500.00
Hoboken Firehouses & Fireman's Monument	Hudson	Hoboken City	\$37,500.00
Hoboken Free Public Library and Manual Training School	Hudson	Hoboken City	\$50,000.00
Mahlon Fisher Residence (Doric House)	Hunterdon	Flemington Borough	\$20,625.00
William Lindsay White House	Hunterdon	Kingwood Township	\$30,000.00
Andrew and Hannah Drake Farmstead/Brookdale Farm	Mercer	Pennington Borough	\$49,090.00
In and Out Social Club	Mercer	Trenton City	\$22,500.00
Isaac Pearson House	Mercer	Hamilton Township	\$50,000.00
Buckelew/Austin/Webb/Pulda Farm Historic District	Middlesex	North Brunswick Township	\$21,375.00
Allen House	Monmouth	Shrewsbury Borough	\$47,550.00
Ayres' Farm	Morris	Denville Township	\$5,550.00
Jacob Ford Powder Mill Site	Morris	Morristown Town	\$30,954.00
Lafayette School	Morris	Roxbury Township	\$14,156.00
Middle Valley Chapel	Morris	Washington Township	\$5,000.00
Lambert Castle	Passaic	Paterson City	\$50,000.00
Van Riper Hopper House & Van Duyne House	Passaic	Wayne Township	\$28,500.00
Daniel Robert House	Somerset	Somerville Borough	\$23,535.00
Voorhees Dutch Barn	Somerset	Bedminster Township	\$50,000.00
Old Newton Academy	Sussex	Newton Town	\$34,225.00
Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge	Union	Clark Township	\$50,000.00

Heritage Tourism Projects			
Project Name	Property County	Property Municipality	Grant Request
Roebing Wire Company	Burlington	Florence Township	\$36,415.00
George Morgan Stone House	Gloucester	Washington Township, Gloucester Co	\$5,001.00
Dey Mansion (Passaic County Interpretive Plan)	Passaic	Wayne Township	\$41,397.00
Black Creek Site	Sussex	Vernon Township	\$5,107.00

License Plate Fund

Ms. Kelly reported to the Board that the Committee reviewed three applications for License Plate Fund grants. Of the three projects the Committee is recommending funding of one – the application from the Camden County Historical Society. The Committee thought it a very worthwhile project and noted it was a continuation to a previously awarded grant. Ms. Kelly noted that the other two projects were not as strong and with limited funds remaining in the License Plate fund, the Committee did not believe these two projects were as high of a priority at this date. Both applicants will be debriefed and encouraged to reapply in the future. Ms. Kelly then moved to award the grant to the Camden County Historical Society as recommended by the Committee, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed unopposed.

Report of the Easements and Acquisitions Standing Committee

Mr. Miller referenced the Committee's report in the Board packet. Mr. Ceponis provided an overview of two perpetual easement applications received by the Trust. The first application is from Harding Township, Morris County for the Glen Alpin property. The second application is from Franklin Township in Somerset County for the Dunn House. Both properties are currently owned by their respective municipalities and each wishes to sell the properties to nonpublic entities. In each case the State Historic Preservation Office is requiring that a perpetual easement be placed on the property as a condition of the sale. Both properties contribute to New Jersey and National Register-listed historic districts. The Easement and Acquisition Committee recommends to the Board acceptance of each perpetual easement donation. There being no further discussion, Mr. Miller moved that the Trust accept the donations of the perpetual easements on Glen Alpin and the Dunn House, seconded by Ms. Foster. The motion passed unopposed.

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

The Committee reminded the Board that there will be a Board Retreat on October 24th to discuss implementation of the plan and future plan goals.

Education Committee

No Report.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Foster reminded Board members that the Board Commitment Forms will be at the Retreat for Board members to complete.

New Business

Ms. Kelly reported to the Board that Keep It Green (KIG) was starting meetings once again. Ms. Kelly suggested that if possible we should try to increase the historic preservation contingent attending the KIG meetings, so that historic preservation has a stronger presence and is able to compete more evenly with the land preservation contingent. Ms. Guzzo suggested a KIG subcommittee so that different committee members can attend meeting based on availability. Everyone agreed that the Trust needs to be at the table to be heard and that we should continue our participation in KIG.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mr. Tighue made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Kelly. The motion passed unopposed. The meeting adjourned at 12:35.