

NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, February 15, 2015
9:30 AM

Conference Call In Number: 1 (877) 411-9748
Access Code: 9847079

Call to Order

Ms. Omogbai called the meeting to order at 9:35.

Open Public Meetings Act

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

Roll call

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

Trustees and Ex-Officio/Representatives present: Janet Foster, Deborah Marquis-Kelly, Peter Lindsay, Kenneth Miller, Katherine Ng, Meme Omogbai, Chris Perks, Patricia Salvatore, Dan Saunders.

NJHT Staff present: Catherine Goulet, Dorothy Guzzo.

Reports of Officers

Ms. Omogbai explained that the special meeting had been called in order to update the board on legislative proposals that were being put forth by Assemblyman McKeon and Senator Smith regarding funding for the NJ Historic Trust program. Senator Smith had requested our comments within 72 hours from releasing the draft, necessitating the need for an expedited meeting.

Ms. Omogbai went over the key points of the draft legislation. The amount allocated for the Historic Trust was about one-third the amount that the preservation constituency had come to rely upon. In the proposal, funding allocation for administration was capped at 5% or \$106,500. Ms. Guzzo explained the fiscal needs of the Trust's administrative budget, detailing the history of where funds had come from to ensure adequate support. She explained that FY 16 operating monies would be drawn from balances of returned funds remaining from cancelled projects.

Also explained was that the Governor's budget due out on February 24 would provide a better idea of available funds for the next grant round.

Ms. Omogbai explained that, given the deadline, a letter had been sent to Senator Smith detailing the impact of the proposed legislation and expressing our concerns. The bill will need a public

hearing in both the Assembly and the Senate and it would be important to have constituents present to testify and directly speak to the legislators about the importance of adequate grant funding. It was the consensus of the Board that NJHT should continue to monitor the progress of legislation.

Chris Perks requested a fact sheet to summarize the issues.

Since it is an informational meeting, no formal action was taken.

Public Comment

No member of the public participated in the call.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Next Regular Meeting Date & Location:

March 11, 2015 10:00 am

Morristown Library