

## **NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST**

### **NJHT Board of Trustees Meeting Wednesday, September 10, 2014 Oswald J. Nitschke House Kenilworth, Union County**

#### **Call to Order**

Ms. Omogbai called the meeting to order at 10:08 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: John Hatch, Deborah Kelly, Peter Lindsay, Katherine Ng, Meme Omogbai, Patricia Salvatore, Dan Saunders, Ken Miller, Joyce Paul, and Robert Tighue

NJHT Staff present: Dorothy Guzzo, Judith Adams, and Lauren Giannullo

Also present: Anne Marie Miller, Margaret Hickey, Tom Connolly, Shirley Maxwell, Barbara Morrison, Fran Day, and Joyce Chiappetta

#### **Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

Mr. Saunders, the chair of the nominating committee, made a motion to elect Ms. Omogbai as Chair, Ms. Foster as Vice Chair, Mr. Miller as Treasurer, and Mr. Tighue as Secretary. Mr. Hatch seconded the motion to elect the officers. The motion passed.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Omogbai asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June board meeting. Mr. Miller moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Saunders seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Maxwell, as President of the Kenilworth Historical Society, welcomed the Board to the Nitschke House. She thanked the Board for all of the assistance the organization has received over the years, enabling the completion of the exterior and interior restorations of the house as well as the installation of an ADA elevator. She also offered a tour of the house after the meeting.

Ms. Miller, Executive Director of Art Pride, spoke to the Board about current initiatives, especially those regarding cultural and heritage tourism. She began by mentioning a blog post she wrote for the Dodge Foundation about Atlantic City, and described how it was important to

applaud the considerable investment for the arts through CRDA and other sources. She explained that Art Pride promotes advocacy awareness for both retaining and seeking additional state funding as well as looking for new ways to heighten the profile of the arts in the name of its public value. Art Pride recently completed a strategic planning process with its 33 board members and embraced a broader advocacy mission that seeks to look beyond the state for funds and to instill greater public value. Ms. Miller described two programs that Art Pride has been working on: Discover Jersey Arts and Arts Plan. Discover Jersey Arts is an audience development initiative. Arts Plan is working to link the arts to other public and private sectors and to engage with the League of Municipalities on various issues such as cultural and heritage tourism and education. This year there will be a heritage tourism panel at the League's conference. She said she is optimistic about this partnership with the League going forward. Ms. Miller also discussed the idea of creative placemaking as a tourism tool, and used the city of Burlington as an example. Art Pride had a conference with the Consortium for Creative Placemaking this summer and developed a website ([artmattersnj.org](http://artmattersnj.org)) to use as an advocacy tool. Additionally, stickers were made up by a commissioned artist.

Ms. Miller said that Art Pride is keeping an eye on the hotel/motel tax. Legislation was introduced last session that looks at increasing the level of support to the 2005 level, which would reclaim tax revenue that is being collected but that is being used by the general fund and not re-purposed to the arts/history/tourism community. There are 11 assembly and 9 senate sponsors and they are working to change the formulas. Ms. Miller explained that Art Pride has both a c-3 and a c-4 side. The c-3 side is funded through charitable contributions and the c-4 side is funded through memberships. The organization splits its staff between both sides; it has books for each side to keep things separate. Joe Simonetta is the lobbyist on contract with Art Pride. Ms. Miller stated that membership is growing thanks to the discounted services that are offered to members. These services are an added value that members seem to be deeming worthwhile, based on the increase in membership. Finally, Ms. Miller said that she hopes the silos between the groups in the state can be broken down so we can work together effectively.

## **Reports of Officers**

### **Chair:**

No report.

### **Vice chair**

No report.

### **Secretary:**

No report.

### **Treasurer:**

Mr. Miller stated that last year's spending came in under budget. The only issue was that the Trust did not get back the fringe benefit overhead total in its entirety. The budget for this fiscal year, FY 15, is unchanged in total from last year. He reported that there is no new money for

grants at this time, and that the revolving loan fund remains frozen. Ms. Guzzo explained that for FY 15 there is money set aside for the Best Practices workshops and for the temporary employment of Michelle Racioppi. She stated that the remainder of the budget is very similar to last year's. Ms. Omogbai made a motion to adopt the FY 15 budget. Ms. Kelly seconded this motion. The motion passed.

### **Report of the Grants & Loans Standing Committee**

Ms. Kelly referenced the Grants & Loans Committee Report in the Board packet.

#### Requests for Extensions

Each request was voted upon individually by the Board.

**Grantee:** Port Colden United Methodist Church

**Project:** Port Colden United Methodist Church

**Grant Award No.:** 2008.2070

**Grant Award:** \$186,000

**Drawdown:** 95%

**Municipality:** Port Colden

**County:** Warren

*The Committee recommends an extension to December 31, 2014 to obtain and install the plaque.*

Mr. Hatch recused himself from voting on this extension. Mr. Saunders made the motion to approve this extension. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. The motion passed.

**Grantee:** Bayshore Discovery Project

**Project:** Bivalve Shipping Sheds and Wharves

**Grant Award No.:** 2009.0049

**Grant Award:** \$50,000.00

**Drawdown:** 80%

**Municipality:** Commercial Township

**County:** Cumberland

*The Committee recommends an extension to December 31, 2014 to complete the grant paperwork and close out the grant.*

Ms. Salvatore made the motion to approve this extension. Mr. Hatch seconded this motion. The motion passed.

**Grantee:** Westampton Historical Society

**Project:** Rancocas Lyceum

**Grant Award No.:** 2010.0062

**Grant Award:** \$30,600

**Drawdown:** 0%

**Municipality:** Rancocas

**County:** Burlington

*The Committee recommends an extension to August 15, 2015 in order for the grantee to have time to file for reinstatement of their tax exempt status with the IRS.*

Mr. Hatch made the motion to approve this extension. Mr. Saunders seconded this motion. The motion passed.

**Grantee:** Borough of Spring Lake  
**Project:** Duggan First Aid and Emergency Squad Building  
**Grant Award No.:** 2008.2022  
**Grant Award:** \$526,950  
**Drawdown:** 0%  
**Municipality:** Spring Lake  
**County:** Monmouth

*The Committee recommends an extension to August 6, 2015 to complete construction, submit final report paperwork, and close out the grant.*

Mr. Saunders made the motion to approve this extension. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. The motion passed.

**Grantee:** Historic Paulus Hook Association  
**Project:** Paulus Hook Park  
**Grant Award No.:** 2010.0065  
**Grant Award:** \$50,000  
**Drawdown:** 0%  
**Municipality:** Jersey City  
**County:** Hudson

*The Committee recommends an extension to August 15, 2015 to complete the design development and construction documents.*

Mr. Hatch recused himself from voting on this extension. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve this extension. Mr. Lindsey seconded this motion. The motion passed.

**Grantee:** Jersey City  
**Project:** West Bergen Historic District  
**Grant Award No.:** 2010.0108  
**Grant Award:** \$50,000  
**Drawdown:** 0%  
**Municipality:** Jersey City  
**County:** Hudson

*The Committee recommends an extension to April 15, 2015 in order to complete the nomination process and submit closeout paperwork.*

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve this extension. Mr. Lindsey seconded this motion. The motion passed.

### Open Grants

Ms. Kelly then briefly went over open grants. She stated that things are slowly improving with the East Point Lighthouse. Ms. Guzzo said that Glenn Ceponis will be meeting with the county improvement authority soon to look into moving the grant to them in order to get things moving again. Ms. Kelly stated that the Trust has scheduled a meeting for September 17, 2014 with the Superintendent of Ellis Island to discuss the NPS plans for the Island in relation to the grants Save Ellis Island had received from the Trust. Ms. Kelly explained that the South Park Presbyterian Church had a lien mistakenly put on it by the city of Newark; however, the lien is being removed since it was placed in error.

### Sandy Disaster Relief Grants for Historic Properties

Ms. Guzzo stated that the staff has finalized a list of recommended projects, and the list was provided to DEP on September 9. By December, a PowerPoint presentation of the projects can be shown to the Board. Funding will not be made available to homeowners in this grant program. Mr. Saunders observed that the program is moving along very well.

### Discover New Jersey History License Plate Fund

The Fund received five applications in the last quarter, and the Grants & Loans Committee recommended two of them for funding:

**Applicant:** Medford Historical Society

**Project:** Develop a tour highlighting the life of Dr. James Still and incorporating a number of historic sites, create a video and interactive map to be made available on their website, create a series of three bus tours.

**Request:** \$5,000

**Applicant:** Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society

**Project:** Create a passport program that will incorporate five county historic sites.

**Request:** \$5,000

Ms. Kelly reviewed the requests. Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to fund the two projects, seconded by Mr. Lindsey. The motion passed. Ms. Kelly explained that the three applications that were not recommended received suggestions that they revise and resubmit their requests once their proposals were developed further and incorporated linkages between resources and attractions.

### 1772 Foundation Grants

Ms. Kelly stated that the 1772 Foundation approved the 2014 grant awards that the NJHT Board recommended for funding at the June 16, 2014 meeting. The 1772 Foundation will again partner with NJHT in 2015 for another grant round; and requested NJHT help in establishing a revolving loan fund in New Jersey.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Guzzo referenced the Executive Director's and the staff reports in the board packet. She stated that she will be on the panel covering the adaptive reuse of the GG Greene building in Woodbury at the Governor's Housing Conference, in addition to the panel mentioned by Ms. Miller.

Ms. Guzzo explained that she has submitted a travel request for the 177 Foundation revolving loan fund training session in November in Savannah, GA. The executive committee has already approved this expenditure. Mr. Lindsey made a motion to approve this expenditure, and Mr. Miller seconded it. The motion passed. Ms. Guzzo stated that the revolving loan fund that NJHT currently has is underutilized, likely because of grant availability. Ms. Guzzo and Ms. Omogbai met with HANDS as a potential partner for a revolving loan fund. They are not a historic preservation organization but they are involved with historic buildings in their work in Orange. They had a good conversation, but HANDS said they have a lot on their plate right now and didn't commit to anything. Ms. Guzzo said that there are not many community based historic preservation organizations right now, so that is a challenge. A meeting with Stand Up for Salem is scheduled for late September; they are also a potential partner for a revolving loan fund. Ms. Guzzo and Ms. Omogbai asked that if anyone has other ideas for potential partners to please share them.

### **Report of the Department of Community Affairs**

Ms. Paul discussed Deputy Commissioner Chuck Richman's meeting with Ms. Omogbai where a commitment was made to support efforts to ensure that NJHT will receive funding if the November voter referendum passes. Right now, DCA is focused on continuing to obligate and distribute the initial \$1.8 billion from the federal government for Sandy and working on developing programs for the second \$1.4 billion funding tranche. To date over \$1.1 billion has been obligated. Ms. Paul explained that by the time the program is complete over 8,000 RREM grants will have been made. Currently the department is waiting to hear details regarding the third tranche of funding that will be coming.

### **Report of the Department of Environmental Protection**

Mr. Saunders explained that the department is busy reviewing the RREM projects. He also spoke about the current flux in the staff at HPO; they lost three contract staff and two support staff. Temporary contract staff will be hired to fill these vacancies. Mr. Saunders explained that they are working on developing historic contexts in many of the project areas, where this had not been done before. Atlantic City is one place in particular where this is occurring.

### **Report of the Department of Treasury**

No report.

### **Report of the Legislation and Policy Standing Committee**

Ms. Ng referenced the Committee's report in the board packet. She explained that after the ballot initiative was approved, thank you notes were sent to those legislators who sponsored the

legislation. Appointments with key legislators are being scheduled to discuss the initiative and its relationship to preservation. Ms. Ng explained that it was important to get this message across face to face. She also described a call with Preservation NJ where a collective strategy to support the public funding initiative was developed. Preservation NJ agreed to spearhead a letter-writing and email campaign to get the message out in regards to why to vote yes to question two, and ask for donations to the cause. Ms. Kelly explained that the last ballot initiative campaign effort suffered from getting very little funding from the historic preservation community to give to Keep It Green; the historic preservation's contribution needs to be counted in order to stay in the allocation mix. Ms. Ng said the letter to go out from Preservation NJ will be reviewed and mailed out in the near future. Ms. Ng explained that any donations made by individuals will go into a separate account at Preservation NJ. Ms. Kelly stated that the environmental groups always raise the funding, and the historic preservation community needs to do this as well in order to make an impression.

#### **Report of Special Ad Hoc Committee – Strategic Planning**

Ms. Ng reminded the Board that the upcoming strategic planning retreat will take place on October 6, 2014 in Ocean Grove. Ms. Omogbai encouraged the group to arrive the night before and plan to stay the night, so the group can gather for an informal dinner on Sunday evening. Ms. Guzzo reported that four of the board members had completed the pre-retreat survey; she will resend the link to the Board. Ms. Guzzo stated that Jim Requa will facilitate the retreat free of charge; he has reviewed past strategic plans, drafted questions for the Board and Trust grantees, and will meet with the NJHT staff in preparation for the retreat. Ms. Ng explained that the goals of this strategic planning session are for NJHT to stay relevant, adapt to the changes happening, and open up the visibility of NJHT to a broader stakeholder base in order to raise awareness.

#### **Report of the Easements and Acquisitions Standing Committee**

Mr. Hatch referred trustees to the easement report included in the board packet.

#### **Report of the Education and Outreach Standing Committee**

Mr. Lindsey presented the education and outreach report. Ms. Guzzo reminded the group that two scopes of work had been prepared; one for a consultant to bring the sites together and one for the creation of a website. Currently we are waiting on the list of military sites in order to provide it to the consultant. This initiative will be funded by the license plate fund. Mr. Lindsey stated that Ms. Salvatore's and Ms. Ng's reports are complete, and he still needs to complete his. Ms. Guzzo stated that the scope for the consultant should be able to go out in October, and she anticipates it will require six months of work.

Mr. Lindsey spoke about a technical engineering symposium to be held in New Jersey in April 2015. He said that the event is looking for papers and has a trade show, and that it might be a good opportunity to educate the engineers in attendance on the value of historic preservation. He said the call for sessions is not yet out but he will share it upon its release.

### **Report of the Fiscal Oversight Standing Committee**

No report.

### **New business**

Ms. Guzzo asked the Board to review the list of proposed meeting dates through the end of 2015. The Board agreed on the dates as listed, with the exception of the December 2014 meeting date. This meeting date was changed to December 3, 2014.

Ms. Kelly informed the group that the NJ League of Municipalities meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014, and that the Trust is sharing a table with Art Pride and the Historical Commission.

Ms. Guzzo described the 2015 conference planning that is currently in the works. The conference will be held in Burlington County, likely at the ML Hotel in Mt. Laurel. Ms. Guzzo sent a letter to Senator Diane Allen regarding the event, and in response Senator Allen generously offered her house as the site of the conference opening reception. Additionally, Robert Whitman, a former FBI employee who focused on art crimes, has agreed to give the opening reception keynote and do an educational session at the conference focusing on collections security. Ms. Guzzo plans to meet with Senator Allen in October. She is also reaching out to insurance companies to see if the opening reception can be underwritten, as it is focused on security. Ms. Guzzo also mentioned that Senator Allen's house is next to the Red Dragon Canoe Club, a historic building that was just awarded a 1772 grant.

### **Public Comment:**

Ms. Miller added to her earlier comments, explaining that Art Pride is working with the State Arts Council and the Dodge Foundation on a cultural data project. This initiative includes arts and history organizations and works to help them understand their financial situations. The program will allow organizations to enter in their data and receive reports from that data that will help them understand their resource usage. Ms. Miller stated that New Jersey was the only Mid-Atlantic state to not have this project. She said she hopes that the information on the economic stability of these organizations will be able to be used for organizational comparisons.

### **Adjournment**

There being no additional business, Ms. Salvatore made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Ng. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.