

**NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**  
**Board of Trustees (Virtual) Meeting**  
**10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052634510>**  
**Meeting ID: 890 5263 4510**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Lindsay called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

**Open Public Meetings Act**

Ms. Guzzo notified the Board that public 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 quorum.

Trustees present: Peter Lindsay, Chris Perks, Janet Foster, Anne Salvatore, Kenneth Miller, Deborah Kelly, Meme Omogbai, Lisa Easton, Linda Stender, Katherine Marcopul (DEP), Robert Tighue (Treasury), Gina Fischetti (DCA)

NJHT staff present: Dorothy Guzzo, Glenn Ceponis, Carrie Hogan, Judy Murphy, Ashley Parker, Vito Scocozzo, Shannon Bremer, Jennifer Boggs, Alexis Alemy, Bob Ogle

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Perks moved and Mr. Miller seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 13. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

**Public Comment**

No public present.

**Communications**

Ms. Guzzo noted that communications were provided in the email sent out prior to the meeting. This included the reports of several committees and a draft of *Strategic Plan 2023-2028*. In addition to those communications, Ms. Guzzo reported that there was a fire at 753 Walnut Street in Camden. Dr. Marcopul added that she received correspondence from the owner stating that a structural engineer would be looking at the building; however, the back of the building appeared severely damaged.

**Reports of Officers**

### *Chair*

Mr. Lindsay thanked Ms. Guzzo, Ms. Easton, Ms. Stender, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. Simmons for accompanying him to Washington D.C. to talk with legislators on Advocacy Day. There was some discussion detailing how the day went and what will need to be done in the coming months to continue to foster those communications. Mr. Lindsay announced that Lisa would be serving as the Chair of the Education Committee. He also requested adding more people, outside of board members, to serve on the committee. Mr. Lindsay recommended forming another committee to oversee revisions to the Trust's grant applications.

### *Vice Chair*

No report.

### *Treasurer*

Mr. Miller reported that the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) estimated projection is at \$12.2 million. He added that although last year's projection was \$18.6 million, we still have substantial funds to give out. The administrative budget was well within the bounds of what was initially budgeted. Ms. Omogbai commended the staff on their stewardship of the funds.

### *Secretary*

No report.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Guzzo stated that her full report as well as the staff report were provided in the communications for the meeting. She reported that staff has been extraordinarily busy trying to get new people on board in temp positions. Two new FTEs were also requested in next years budget. Ms. Guzzo stated that a rule proposal was sent with the communications for the meeting. She requested that all Board members review the proposal and explained the next steps. Ms. Guzzo provided an update on the 2023 Conference in Atlantic City and stated a need for more sponsors. Ms. Stender requested information on who usually provides sponsorships and Ms. Guzzo provided details. There was some discussion regarding outreach for sponsorships.

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

Ms. Fischetti reported that the Main Street Now conference will be occurring in Boston at the end of the month. She stated that there will be a lot of great representation from New Jersey's Main Street program in attendance, including Metuchen who is a finalist for the Great American Main Street Award. The winner of the award will be announced on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Fischetti also reported that she sits on the Capital City Redevelopment Commission and the Eagle Tavern site was a hot topic at the recent meeting. There was subsequent discussion on Eagle Tavern, its potential uses, and its present ownership.

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

Dr. Marcopul reported that the National Park Service (NPS) accepted New Jersey's comprehensive statewide Preservation Plan and it is now in effect. The Department of Environmental Protection and Green Acres program are currently working towards preparing a statewide outdoor recreation plan. Dr. Marcopul recently met with the New Jersey Commission on Native American Affairs to discuss better coordination on projects that would affect tribal spaces and resources moving forward.

## **Report of Department of Treasury**

Mr. Tighue reported that the Executive Statehouse is about to open. The renovations are almost 100% complete, barring minor details. People are moving their offices back into the building within the next week. The full project was on time and under budget. Mr. Tighue stated that he will be trying to organize a tour for board members and staff once everyone has been moved back into the building.

### **Reports of the Standing Committees**

- **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not have any major updates. Items such as the *Strategic Plan 2023-2028* and *Rule Proposal N.J.A.C. 5:101* were being discussed at later points in the meeting.

- **Report from the Grants & Loans Committee**

Ms. Foster provided an update from the Grants & Loans Committee, including the following extension requests which are further detailed in the Grants & Loans Committee formal report:

*Requests for Extension: \**

**Grantee:** Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms

**Project:** State Route 10 Marker (Entrance Sign to Craftsman Farms)

**Grant Award No.:** 16314747

**Grantee:** Borough of Manasquan

**Project:** Squan Beach Life Saving Station #9

**Grant Award No.:** 2017.1039

**Grantee:** Morris County Park Commission

**Project:** Mount Hope Miners' Church

**Grant Award No.:** 2019.0018

**Grantee:** New Hanover Township

**Project:** General Edward S. Godfrey House

**Grant Award No.:** 2019.0016

**Grantee:** Hudson County

**Project:** Lincoln Park

**Grant Award No.:** 2019.0045

**Grantee:** Allentown Public Library Association, Inc.

**Project:** First Baptist Church and Parsonage

**Grant Award No.:** 2019.0093

**Grantee:** City of Bayonne

**Project:** Bayonne Truck (Hook and Ladder) House #1

**Grant Award No.:** 2019.0031

**Grantee:** Christ Church, Bordentown

**Project:** Christ Episcopal Church, Bordentown

**Grant Award No.:** 2017.1009

**Grantee:** Shipman Mansion Foundation, Inc.

**Project:** Red Dragon Canoe Club

**Grant Award No.:** 2019.0047

**Grantee:** Woman's Club of Englewood

**Project:** Brinckerhoff Carriage House

**Grant Award No.:** 2020.0093

**Grantee:** Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center

**Project:** U.S. Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat CG-36538

**Grant Award No.:** 2017.1012

**Grantee:** Monmouth County Historical Association

**Project:** Allen House

**Grant Award No.:** 2018.0043

Ms. Foster asked if there were any recusals. She proposed voting on the extensions as a group. She moved to approve the extensions as a group and both Ms. Easton and Ms. Stender seconded. All voted in favor of the extensions.

*Discover New Jersey History License Plate Grants\**

**Applicant:** Crossroads of the American Revolution

**Project:** Expanded Public Engagement and Heritage Tourism Study for the Proprietary House Preservation Plan

Ms. Foster reported that out of two applications for the Discover New Jersey History License Plate Grant this round, one was recommended for funding. Ms. Foster proposed the vote and Ms. Omogbai seconded. All voted in favor of funding.

*Emergency Intervention Fund\**

**Applicant:** Borough of Paulsboro

**Project:** Paul House

Ms. Foster then reported that there was one application to the Emergency Intervention Fund. Ms. Foster added that the Grants & Loans Committee's discussions regarding a recommendation paused once it was realized that more information and clarification was necessary to properly evaluate the request. Mr. Ceponis explained that the original scope of work included things beyond emergency intervention, hence why it needed to be refined more to meet the criteria for an emergency intervention. Subsequently, the applicant revised its proposal providing two options to address the emergency work: one for \$46,000 and another for \$28,000. Following a discussion of the two options Mr. Perks made a motion to approve the second option (\$28,000), which adequately addresses the work requiring emergency attention. Ms. Foster seconded the motion. All voted in favor of funding.

*Revolving Loan Fund\**

**Applicant:** Camden County Historical Society

**Project:** Benjamin Cooper House

Ms. Foster stated that there was also a request for funds from the Revolving Loan Fund. A five-year loan at half of prime up to 4% was recommended by the Grants & Loans Committee. Ms. Foster proposed the vote and asked if there were any recusals. Mr. Perks recused himself. Ms. Omogbai seconded the proposal. All except for Mr. Perks voted in favor of funding.

- **Acquisitions and Easements\***

Mr. Miller stated that a second appraisal came in for Point Breeze. The committee still has some questions regarding the two appraisals

- **Legislation & Policy/Strategic Planning**

Ms. Stender and Ms. Guzzo discussed a proposal that would require training for HPCs. Ms. Foster recommended that the Board should also attend these trainings as well.

- **Education and Outreach**

Ms. Easton stated that she will be speaking with Ms. Salvatore about how the Board has looked at Education and Outreach in the past to figure out what the best and most effective path forward will be. Ms. Salvatore and Ms. Kelly provided background information regarding past work the committee has done and promoted.

- **Fiscal Oversight**

No report.

### **Unfinished Business**

Board and staff members convened after the meeting to discuss edits and changes to the current draft of the *Strategic Plan 2023-2028*. The final version will be presented for formal acceptance at the June 21 meeting.

### **New Business**

Ms. Guzzo mentioned that there were previous discussions about drawing down more funds for the Emergency Intervention Fund and Heritage Tourism. A total of \$25,000 would be drawn down for Heritage Tourism and \$100,000 would be drawn down for the Emergency Intervention Fund. Mr. Miller moved to draw down the funds for both the Emergency Intervention Fund and Heritage Tourism and Ms. Easton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Guzzo then presented *Rule Proposal N.J.A.C. 5:101*. Mr. Perks moved and Ms. Kelly seconded moving forward with the next step of the rule proposal. All voted in favor.

### **Public Comment**

No public present.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Lindsay moved and Ms. Kelly and Mr. Tighue seconded a motion to adjourn at 12:30 pm.

**Next Meeting Date & Location:**

**June 21, 2023**

**Location: Virtual via Zoom**