

Meeting Minutes

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
Charles Town Visitor Center, Charles Town, WV
June 18, 2014

Members Present: Martin Burke, Curt Mason, Sara Lambert, Carmen Creamer, Eric Jenkins
Guests: Bill Theriault, Rich Smith (owner of Vinton Manor), Chris Dunphy (Shepherd University Intern), Lynn Widmyer, Paul Rosa (Harpers Ferry Conservancy).

Report of Minutes from the May 21, 2014 meeting submitted and distributed by Eric Jenkins. Curt Mason moved to accept the minutes, Carmen Creamer 2nd, motion passed.

Civil War Trust Request

Tom Gilmore, Director of Real Estate for the Civil War Trust has requested JCHLC serve as government sponsor for a grant application to ABPP to purchase the Allstadt/Gibson Property, 13 acres (aka the flea market) in Harpers Ferry. JCHLC is not being asked to hold property title or easement. Similar transactions at Shepherdstown Battlefield have not been an issue where the state auditor is concerned. Jefferson County Commission attorney noted that we are on solid ground to continue serving as a conduit for grant funds for the Allstadt Property. Final vote postponed until June 25, 2014 to allow adequate public meeting notice.

Treasurer's Report: Report presented by C. Creamer with handouts. Balance as of June 18th, 2014 is \$9,202.48. Insurance bill is due in the July. C. Mason moved to accept the report, 2nd by Sara Lambert motion passed.

Draft Budget for the 2015 year: Handout presented by M. Burke outlining proposed expenditures for the 2015 year. C. Creamer moved to accept budget C. Mason 2nd, motion passed.

JCHLC will propose a definition change of "certified historic structure" in the WV Code for the 2015 legislative session to expand tax credits to JC Landmark owners.

JCHLC will study establishing its own reimbursable/revolving fund for preservation efforts.

Jefferson County Boards and Commissions Code of Ethics Requirement

All commissioners will be asked to sign new ethics code. More information at a later meeting.

Geo Explorer Project:

Historic Shepherdstown archives digitization has started thanks to a grant. Digitization began with photographs in which digital copies will be added to Geo. Explorer.

Melinda Day, lead interpreter ranger at HF, will be working on Black History of Jeff. Co. Interested in being able to digitize Storer College papers and add to GeoExplorer.

Bill met with Doug Perks to see what they can do for the Geo Explorer, Photo Scan Workshop to be held in Nov.

Historic Shepherdstown is researching restoration and preservation of the Thomas Shepherd Cemetery following a downed tree that caused damage to the boundary wall. Looking for information on property ownership.

JCHLC Properties Update

Peter Burr Farm

Floor options for the Burr Farm Barn on hold waiting for funds.

Summer Maintenance: Grass mowing is being done by Chis Dunphy.

Exploration of a fire pit for outdoor cooking etc to be located at the Burr Farm., Burke will meet with Creamer to discuss location.

Snow Hill: Chris Dunphy is documenting cistern locations and helping in site cleanup and maintenance. Two utility poles will be removed from site to present the house as it would have been seen in the 1800s. When electrical power is restored to the property the lines will be buried.

Shepherdstown Cement Mill Property: Establishing a conservation easement on the Lowe tract. C. Creamer moved to give M. Burke authorization to sign easement C. Mason 2nd motion passed.

Battle of Smithfield Crossing (Middleway)

Based on an opinion from the WV SHPO the idea of nominating Smithfield Crossing as a National Battlefield District to commemorate the 150th Anniversary in August not look promising because of the amount of alteration to the landscape. Will discuss with Middleway Conservancy.

JCHLC Lecture for JC Landmark owners

Lecture will be scheduled for October. Topic of 20% tax credit applications.

JCHLC Preservation Awards:

JCHLC has three preservation awards but has not made any awards since 2011. Historic Preservation Awards programs assigned to Eric Jenkins for review and recommendations.

Commissioners' Reports

PVA Summer Camp will be held at the Burr Farm July 14-18

BAD Building Survey completed. C. Creamer surveyed a number of buildings and turned in results. Commission will invite Peter Fricke to discuss BAD Building Project at July meeting.

Sara Lambert presented concept of Jeff. County Landmarks adding a list of builders and restorers to its website to make it easier for homeowners of historic properties to find area builders meeting their restoration needs. Redesign of JCHLC website will begin in July.

Current conditions of the Johnstown Church, Burke will investigate and speak to Mr. Roper our contact.

Time Adjourned: 9:40