

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

October 20, 2010

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Michael Musick. Guests: Joyce Cole, Carey Ingram, Betty Lowe, Willis Nowell, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Amoroso is concerned about recent delays in funding distributions from the county. We did get a \$7,600 grant from SHPO for fairs and festivals and two checks for \$4,400. We also received \$352 from bread sales (see handouts for further details). The final bill for work on the Burr House by Restoration Specialists is \$13,840. Two thousand of this total is for replacing and priming the siding. John Allen remarked that the Burr work looks great. We have a \$5,000 commitment for GeoHistory work. Betty Lowe spoke about a gift for Maggie Keeler. The idea of a plaque at the farm was not favored, as she would not see it. Betty had an artist paint a scene of the Burr House on a plate, which she displayed, and which cost \$20. John Allen thanked her for getting this done. Betty will send a card with the plate. Don Amoroso observed that Maggie and Irvan Groff put in a great many years at the farm. Michael Musick moved approval of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Martin Burke and passed.

Shannondale: Willis Nowell, from Friends of Shannondale Springs, handed around photos of the bath house and vicinity. The DNR stopped taking care of the property in the early 2000s. One photo showed the rocks on the access path, which Carey Ingram thinks may have fallen due to the recent Rockville, MD, earthquake. He explained the situation. They have no keys to the new lock, and can't do maintenance. They would like a response from DNR. Carey has done the mowing for five years. The HLC lease of the property was discussed - Willis doesn't have a copy of the most recent one. River rescue and fire access is now difficult. John Allen remarked that the lease could be up - he will check on it. Willis received no response to his e-mails, and John Allen will send a cordial e-mail inquiring about the situation. Bill Theriault noted that the state agreed to have the site on the National Register, and that for a long time they discouraged everything but hunting on the property.

Poor Farm: Martin Burke said that we still have the asbestos abatement estimate. If we have the money, it should be high priority.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke reported on the cleanup that we're down to a couple of closets in the main house and a few other things that can be addressed at no cost. We have enough paint for the utility building. There are about 25 maintenance items that will cost. He is meeting next Tuesday with security people on smoke detectors, and can gather a series of estimates. The man with the bush hog came in and found a large new sinkhole on the west side of the house. The question of the drainage ditch is still open. Martin will

bring a list of projects to the next meeting. The silver maple branches reach the bread oven roof. Martin is working on redrafting the long range plan and many other things. There was discussion of the neighboring property, and of a one-week Summer camp in 2011. Martin reported on his dealings with the Board of Education. There is to be a meeting Nov. 4 at 9 a.m.. He is looking for groups to work the farm into their programs. John Allen reported that David Gibney has finished his structural and windows work. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, said that she is pleased with Martin Burke's work. Ed Schwartz has done a spectacular job. He will use a tractor on areas that are not archaeologically "hot." She has purchased two four-foot florescent lights for the barn, and we OK more. Homecoming (our second and last) was productive. Joyce will now focus on the house. Harvest Faire attendance peaked at 12-1:30, with 65 people at one time for a total of about 80, including staff. They are doing a PR packet. \$205.90 was made. The Lincoln Log house (now in the barn) was a big hit. They ordered stoneware and have three promises of furniture. John Allen remarked that we will hold off on furnishing until we have security. Michael Musick reported an estimated value of \$200-400 for the Van Tol coverlet. John Allen will write the Grienbrier Co. Historical Society about it. Joyce noted that she is in this area specifically for the Peter Burr House, so that it can be in useful condition for the community. John Allen urged her to ask us if she has questions. She shared her vision for the interior, and wants to include WV Americorps. She is working on an essay competition and talking to educators. Don Amoroso said that our restraint on the Burr House is financial. Joyce is trying to build an economic support base for the house. John Allen thanked her for her work. Martin Burke added that the Burr section of the website is being revamped.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault reported that work continues on the GeoHistory project. They have 14,000 items, are working on a search engine, and waiting to hear about a Humanities Council Grant. In December they will want to acquire a server. At this point they have a total of \$7,000 in grants. There was discussion of the project with Martin Burke.

Website: Martin Burke has a new set of updates. Dwayne has not been as accessible as in the past. Martin sent him material in August. There will be changes. Martin spoke about donations, links, the search bar, etc.

HLC and the Shepherd University Memorandum of Understanding: Martin Burke explained that this deals with things students can work on for us for free. Michael Musick moved approval of the agreement, which was seconded by Martin Burke and passed.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: The National Register nomination of the Bullskin Run District moves on to the state reviewer. The National Trust meeting in Charles Town is November 12. Martin Burke said we will wait until Spring to sell the tractor.