

## **Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission**

**February 16, 2011**

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.  
Guest: Bill Theriault.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 19, 2011 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Highlights of the report were noted. There is \$1,252.73 under credits for the operating account. Half was received from the hotel/motel tax. We spent \$495. John Allen remarked that a couple of weeks ago we sent in our budget request for the next fiscal year, and asked for money for the audit. The commission asked what we spent last fiscal year. Amoroso stated that the HLC cannot always spend funds as requested due to changes that occur during projects. We have not yet gotten a response from the commission. Michael Musick moved approval of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed.

**Insurance:** John Allen met with Steve Rawlings of the West Virginia Counties Risk Pool. We would be a separate client from the county commission. Mr. Rawlings came out to see the Poor House and Burr Farm. John Allen explained the risk pool. We'll see what Mr. Rawlings proposes. Any group that uses the Poor Farm or Peter Burr Farm needs to be listed as an additional insurer. HLC should be listed as additional insurer on groups' insurance (Reliving History, Jefferson County Schools, PVAS, etc.). We should tell the groups now to prepare them for Spring. Bill Theriault inquired about insurance for the bread bakers, who are not incorporated. Some of the money they earn could be used for insurance. John Allen will look into it.

**Meeting with Farmland Protection and Land Trust:** This was held February 2 in Middleway. Farmland Protection and other groups will figure out ways to focus on farmland protection for prime soils, historic resources, and natural resources. We want to sit down with them and get their criteria. We hope people will come to the HLC, so that we can then direct them to Farmland Protection. There are about 450 working farms in the county.

**GeoHistory Project:** Bill Theriault reported that work is proceeding. The second Wednesday of each month at the Boyd Center is the meeting date and place. A worker is doing database development, and a library staff person is working on the website. Bill is working on data conversion. He described problems with the bureaucracy. New content will be up about April 1. Bill wants something to go up about once a month. He has given information on hard drives to Don Amoroso. He needs a check for \$190.39 for power for the server.

**Peter Burr Farm:** John Allen reported that the monitoring system is now complete, up,

and running. The Master Plan will be considered at our next meeting. We have received comments on it.

**Poor Farm:** John Allen went to the Farm with the insurance representative. We might want to get the door to shut. Two windows are now missing - we will need to get plexiglass installed. It looks as though the wind has been breaking the windows.

**Site Review:** John Allen passed around a map showing the location of the Route 340 cell tower. A 189- foot tower is proposed. There will be a balloon test February 22 at 7 a.m. Everything on the east side of 340 will be designated part of the Kabletown Rural Heritage District. John Allen will look at it. The tower has a potential impact on the immediate area. If that impact is significant, we ought to write to the county commission. On February 2 Dominion Power held an open house at the Holiday Inn in Ranson regarding its upgrade. The existing structure would be taken down, and the new addition would not be more than 30 feet. Most people were fairly pleased - it's considered maintenance. Allen said he doesn't see how you can tell what it will look like without computer modelling.

**Website:** Martin Burke just did his upgrade.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** The landowner's attorney's price for purchase of the cement mill property is \$400,000. We don't know what will happen. If the county commission won't agree, the deal will fall through. On PATH, John Allen no longer has to recuse himself, as the lawsuit against DOE was successful. We received a letter from the Shepherdstown 250th anniversary committee which outlines what they will do. Carmen Creamer noted that these events are not really related to our function, and are outside our purview.