

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

March 17, 2010

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.
Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, John Cowan, Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault, Cynthia Thompson.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed .

Election of Officers: The nomination of John Allen as HLC chairman was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed. The nomination of Don Amoroso as treasurer was moved by Michael Musick, seconded by John Allen, and passed. The nomination of Michael Musick as secretary was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed. These nominees were all unanimously re-elected.

Treasurer's Report: Don Amoroso gave a brief summary of his written report. Since our last meeting we have spent \$570 on the website, \$232.13 on utilities, \$44 on the HLC's post office box, and \$72 on the post office box of the Friends of Peter Burr. The Burr House has a new lock, but needs a new key. Fran Phillips noted the illness of Maggie Keeler. Don pointed out that we pay the minimum on the water bill. This was raised from \$51 to \$79, plus a \$12 surcharge for Mountain Water. There was a discussion of who has keys to the Burr House. We receive 1/24th of the county's hotel/motel tax, \$20,833 (see the handout provided by Don). John Allen moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

Poor Farm: The commissioners will meet at the site April 13, 14, or 15. Bill Theriault noted that students want to take digital photos. They must be accompanied by a designated person.

Viewshed Survey: Yesterday John Allen met with Jones & Jones. They have a map. Before our next meeting they will give us preliminary digital and 3D maps, showing what can be seen from specific spots. Bill Theriault asked about particular aspects of the maps.

Section 106: John Allen has sent a letter of concern to EBI Consulting about the proposed Middleway Pike cell tower. They have now proposed a faux "pine tree" tower, which the HLC considers unacceptable. On another matter, we received a letter regarding a water pipeline that would go under a mountain; that proposal has since been changed, and the SHPO is waiting for the final plan. Bill Theriault asked about the company in Leesburg that did a study of the Jefferson County-Loudoun County boundary line.

Peter Burr Farm: Carmen Creamer has offered to take on the water issue. She took Kirk Davis, the county's capital projects manager, to the farm, and explained that we would like to have it settled. Kirk was unable to find the documents on Burr Farm and Poor

House liability. There was discussion of these matters. Don noted that we pay \$843 per quarter for liability. Carmen would like to see this switched over to the county. Don noted that we have more than liability for the Burr House; Carmen said we should have more than liability for the Poor House also. John Allen said that we will try to get the contractors to meet at the Burr House on the same day as the Poor House visit. Carmen pointed out that the wetland is creeping toward the house, and this will get worse. This led to discussion between Bill Theriault, Fran Phillips, and Carmen. Perhaps we can get the Burr House neighbors involved. In July and August there is a mosquito problem. Bill Berry, from the Friends of Peter Burr, reported that we don't know whether the schools will allow a field trip. We have the potential for a program, and if it rains we can take it to the schools. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that the IRS has received her organization's 501 status application. They are now thinking in terms of programming. Joyce took a course in Philadelphia on open hearth cooking. Four people will go to an April workshop on techniques. Her people have four planned workshops, and will train volunteers. There was discussion of the safety of open hearth cooking. Don Amoroso noted a need to look at the bathrooms. John Allen commented on the need to trap pests there, such as skunks. Joyce has been in contact with the Association of Farms and Living History. Bill Theriault will be at the Burr House tomorrow with a Shepherd University student who will do an Americans with Disabilities assessment. Carmen added that her church has a portable ramp for the handicapped.

National Register Nominations: John Allen reported that there are no updates on these.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault reported on the Jefferson County GeoHistory Project. His March 9 lecture on the subject had about 90 attendees. He will let us know as things develop. There is a need to get together on technical aspects of the project, and to get the HLC's preferences. John Allen has received a \$2,000 AHA grant for the project, and another grant.

Website: Google Earth and much else besides has been recently added.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Carmen reported that the meeting of the historical society has been moved from April 4 to April 11 at 2 p.m. in the basement of the Old Charles Town Library. Michael Musick, secretary of the HLC, will speak on Jefferson County Civil War damage claims in the National Archives. John Cowan introduced Cynthia Thompson, a Shepherd University student who has been working on the records of the Old Elk Church. Michael Musick noted that he will miss the next HLC meeting.