

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

March 18, 2009

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.  
Guests: Joyce Cole, John Cowan, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Betty Lowe, Frances Morgan, Doug Perks, Bill Theriault.

**Second Annual Awards Presentation:** Awards were presented, along with certificates and copies of *Early Art and Artists in West Virginia* by John A. Cuthbert. The Theriault Award for volunteers went to Maggie Keeler, Peter Burr Farm; Bill Berry, Peter Burr Farm (not present); and Curt Mason, Friends of Happy Retreat, Washington Family Legacy Project, Jefferson County Historical Society. The Preservation Award to Helen and Mac Snyder, for restoration of Rose Hill (np); Helen and Faye Davenport, for restoration of the Charles Town Train Station and Altona (np); and to Bob and Martha Putz, for restoration of Linden Spring. The Historian Award went to Jim Price, Shepherdstown Historian; Bill Theriault, Historian; Elizabeth Hyman, for her paper on Hite *versus* Fairfax in Jefferson County (np); and to Galjto Geertsema, for his surveys of land patents and grants.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting were distributed, and corrected for the spelling of Galjto Geertsema's name. Don Amoroso moved their acceptance, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don remarked that we don't know what kind of budget to expect next year, whereupon Frances Morgan, of the Jefferson County Commission, explained in detail the outlook for next year's budget, including the increase in the hotel/motel tax and the budget gap. Nothing about the final budget is certain.

John Allen, Carmen Creamer, Bill Theriault and Frances Morgan discussed the need for maintenance of the Poor Farm property and related ownership issues. Morgan will report back to the county commission, and Allen will provide her with requested information.

Carmen Creamer moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

**Poor Farm:** John Allen reported on the survey of the chapel. Don Amoroso has paid for the plat. The HLC will be given full ownership of the house and wash house. John Allen expressed the thanks of the HLC to Walter Washington for his work in resolving ownership issues.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Irvan Groff and Maggie Keeler reported on the Springhouse: Bart Wheatley has installed late 19th century windows that blend in with the character of the structure. Groff discussed water with Amoroso, explaining that he turns it on when he needs it. Keeler spoke about the plans of the Friends, which will include a tomato tasting,

and perhaps craft classes. Theriault and Creamer discussed using Shepherd University student interns to scrape and paint the Peter Burr house. This was followed by consideration of using interns for exhibit projects, and particularly in identifying and cataloging artifacts such as clay pipes, buttons, marbles, and musket balls. Creamer offered help with identification and putting an exhibit together. John Allen has called a meeting of Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Dr. John Cowan, Bill Theriault, himself, and Don Amoroso for Sunday, March 29, to discuss what to do at the farm.

**Budget Request:** Don Amoroso submitted our budget request February 9, and got a good response.

**Site Reviews:** John Allen reported on developments on the cell tower proposed for Route 51; a new cell tower on Mount Hammond Lane has also been proposed. Carmen Creamer talked about a proposed waste water treatment plant at Tuscawilla. Allen will call the SHPO about it. Also, he has sent a letter to the director of CraftWorks at Cool Spring in support of the proposed adaptive reuse of Cool Spring Farm, a National Register Property, as a school for creative learning. Maggie Keeler spoke about the various craft classes at Cool Spring.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** John Allen has submitted our annual report to the SHPO. At our next meeting he will submit an updated Historic Resources map for approval. On April 17 the SHPO and a National Register reviewer will look at Traveler's Rest, Harewood, and the Bullsken properties.

Allen brought up the approaching John Brown Sesquicentennial, and asked for ideas for our participation. Carmen Creamer noted that Shepherd University's Hannah Geffert will speak to the County Historical Society on Brown, and that the Society's journal, which will come out early, will be devoted to Brown. Allen talked about the clerk's discovery of a box of material relating to the raid and its aftermath. There was discussion in favor of moving the county visitors center at Harpers Ferry from the current trailer to the historic and recently restored Eichelberger House nearby. Carmen Creamer addressed the proposed move of the Charles Town Visitors Center to a nearby building, and suggested the possibility of using transportation money as a source for funding the move. Allen mentioned National Park Service plans, and Creamer said she would find out more about them. Musick expressed himself in favor of a move out of the trailer.

**Election of Officers, etc. :** Carmen Creamer nominated Don Amoroso for the position of HLC treasurer, which was seconded by John Allen and passed. Don noted that he has held the position for nine years. Amoroso then nominated Michael Musick for HLC secretary, which was seconded by Creamer and passed. Creamer then nominated John Allen as HLC chair, which was seconded by Musick and passed. Bill Theriault asked whether the updated Historic Resources map is to be sent to the Planning Commission, and Allen answered in the affirmative.