

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

June 17, 2009

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick
Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Frances Morgan, Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault, Joe Wimer.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don noted that \$23,771.33 is still in the bank, but work by Bart Wheatley will take much of it. Don met with Jefferson Utilities regarding water usage at the Burr Farm. Amoroso believes it's unlikely that we used the large amount alleged. A computerized amount was determined. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed.

Civil War Claims Project: Musick reported on his work thus far in compiling a listing of all the Civil War damage claims for the county as a sesquicentennial project. This would include the Southern Claims Commission, Quartermaster Claims, Tucker-Bowman Act Claims, and records of the U.S. Court of Claims, all in the National Archives, comprising several hundred cases. Carmen commented on the oral tradition surrounding the Grantham claim. Bill Theriault pointed out the value of tying claims into the agricultural census schedules.

Peter Burr Farm: A handout for estimates for exterior work on the farm to be done by Bart Wheatley was discussed in detail. Bill Theriault gave the history of John McGarry and work on the windows. John Allen suggested having Bart do the small North Side siding job. Carmen Creamer moved approval of this, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. Joe Wimer and Frances Morgan contributed to further discussion of proposed work on the farm. Bill Theriault noted that there are three exterior doors that need to be done. Irvan Groff reported for the Friends of Peter Burr that school kids came out and had a good time. Bill Berry added that the school program was truncated due to bad weather. There were 206 students with 44 chaperones and 12 teachers. The idea of having portable programs to take to schools was broached as a possibility. Bill Berry stated that \$167.50 was spent, \$294 worth of apple butter was sold, and that the Friends balance is now \$4,062.59. Maggie Keeler remarked on three new volunteers, and the possibility of an overnight camp-out. Joyce Cole, for Reliving History, cited the need for a planning meeting July 8, and September 12 and November 12 for fundraising and media. Her e-mail regarding American chesnut trees was noted, and the possibility of a tree buffer at the farm discussed. Bill Theriault mentioned that a buffer is approved in the master plan, though there is no guarantee it will work out. Cole reported that incorporation papers have been filed for her group. She added that an embroidered version of the Burr coat of arms will be ready for the meeting of the Burr Association. Carmen Creamer suggested going to theatre groups to obtain costumed reenactors.

Site Reviews: Regarding the proposed elevated water tank at Shepherd Grade and Scrabble Road, near Shepherdstown, John Allen has told the proponents about the approvals they will need, and has been in contact with the SHPO on the subject. On the Mission Road cell tower, there are no historic resources in the area that they must look at. Also, Allen stated that SHPO informed him that the state must have a listing of the sites if they are to be considered. The transfer of our records to SHPO may be a job for interns. Inventory forms must be on file. John has not heard back from the letter he sent on the Traveler's Rest National Historic Landmark road mitigation. Erin Riebe (SHPO) and Barbara Wyatt (Department of the Interior) visited Boidestone's Place, Shepherdstown Battlefield, Traveler's Rest, Harewood, and Southwood. On the Bullskin National Register District, Allen reported that it may not succeed as written; it may be better to start over with the nomination. .

Poor Farm: Walter Washington says resolution of ownership issues is now in the hands of Rock Spring Church. Frances Morgan stated that the county commission has approved the swap. Brush needs to be cleared around the house, and she will put in an administrative request to do this. Joe Wimer and John Allen discussed the property.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault has made changes to data on the map. We will need to write up a GIS grant proposal, showing who will do what. John Allen will set up a meeting with the planning commission. Bill Theriault will get copies of Geertsema's research.

New County Landmarks: We will visit these beginning at 2 p.m. before the next HLC meeting on July 15.

Courthouse: The county commission has formed an eight-member courthouse committee which includes Carmen Creamer, John Allen, Frances Morgan, and Judge Sanders.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Martin Burke will do all the PATH update work. John Brown Sesquicentennial events were announced and listed. Carmen Creamer noted a problem with a log house on the property of Susannah Flanagan (Gap View Farm). John Allen may call her to help resolve it.