



Minutes

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

7pm - Charles Town Visitor's Center

104 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV

April 20, 2016

Members Present: Martin Burke (Chair), Curt Mason, Eric Jenkins, Leigh Koonce, Sara Lambert **Guests:** Rebecca Harriet (NPS), Andrew Lee (NPS), Bill Theriault, Carmen Creamer, John Demer, Rob Aitcheson

M. Burke called the meeting into order at 7:04pm.

C. Creamer noted that Commissioner Eric Bell was not present at the meeting even though he is JCHLC liaison to the Jefferson County Commission and has yet to attend a meeting.

Introductions: M. Burke provided background and information on the presentation to be given by Rebecca Harriet, Superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park with additional insight provided by Andrew Lee, Resource Management Specialist for the Park.

Presentation by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park: Ms. Harriet presented on upcoming activities at the Park to commemorate the Centennial of the National Park Service. Following introductory comments Mrs. Harriet presented on a proposed minor boundary expansion to include the "Allstadt Property" in park boundaries. Mrs. Harriet explained that the land is to be donated by the Civil War Trust to the HFNHP and is scheduled to happen this year if all necessary criteria are met. Mr. Lee then presented a brief history of the Allstadt Property and how it relates to Harpers Ferry NHP. Mr. Lee then presented on the boundary expansion process. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Harriet thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to present. In closing, Mrs. Harriet requested a letter of support from JCHLC for the project should the Commission support the boundary expansion. Action on a letter of support will be at the next JCHLC meeting.

Introduction: M. Burke then introduced recently appointed JCHLC Commissioner, Leigh Koonce with introductory comments ensuing by Mr. Koonce.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting submitted by Sara Lambert and Rob Aitcheson. Acceptance was moved by C. Mason, seconded by E. Jenkins and passed.

Treasurer's Report: C. Creamer had no Treasurer's Report to submit.

Ms. Creamer noted that she would help her successor get settled in before disposing of all duties. Ms. Creamer acknowledged the excellent efforts of past Treasurer Dan Amoroso and noted that the current Treasurer's duties had become much more complicated. M. Burke informed the Commissioners that JCHLC will be hiring a book keeper because of the growing complexities of JCHLC finances. Brief discussion ensued on how land transactions had contributed to this, but was a necessity for past and future preservation initiatives by JCHLC.

WV GeoExplorer Project Report: B. Theriault presented updates on current projects being undertaken, including an announcement that all Storer College materials would be digitized and made available to Harpers Ferry NHP and the WV GeoExplorer Project. Mr. Theriault updated JCHLC on two main focuses for the project, which are to re-write the WV GeoExplorer project website and that the current website can recognize geographic and social relationships. GIS for Historians project is closet to completion. Discussion ensued on future projects.

Snow Hill roof replacement: S. Lambert presented updates on the ongoing process. Mrs. Lambert informed JCHLC that official approval had been received by the WV SHPO to adjust a prior proposal to repair the roof at Snow Hill. M. Burke provided brief comments on the new work plan for the site. Mrs. Lambert then informed JCHLC that the next step was to form a new request for quotes, which had begun, to receive new bids for the project.

AmeriCorps Member Report: R. Aitcheson presented an update on the successful “Park Day” at the Shepherdstown Battlefield, held April 2, 2016. R. Aitcheson then discussed the upcoming Home and Garden Tour, of which the Peter Burr House and Farm was a part. Mr. Aitcheson noted the work conducted in preparation for the event and the anticipated number of visitors for the event which will be held on April 23-24.

REPORTS:

Shepherdstown Battlefield: M. Burke and C. Mason provided updates on projects pertaining to the Shepherdstown Battlefield. M. Burke informed JCHLC that the public notification process had begun for the demolition of a modern home known as the “Stum House” on recently acquired lands by JCHLC. Public notification will be accomplished by placing a notice in the Shepherdstown Chronicle and a presentation to the Shepherdstown Rotary. Commission discussed the process and how funds had been raised to complete demolition.

Graphic Design Project: M. Burke provided examples of recent submissions by Eden Design Co., for new JCHLC logo and branding. M. Burke noted that this project was important particularly to the development of new JCHLC website and future interpretive materials.

Renewal of Shannondale Agreement: M. Burke provided background on the history of the agreement and showed photos of the site. Acceptance of the agreement was moved by C. Mason, seconded by S. Lambert and passed.

Election of new JCHLC officers for 2016-2017: M. Burke presented nominations for new officers.

Martin Burke – Chair

Sara Lambert – Secretary

Curt Mason - Treasurer

S. Lambert moved to accept the proposed slate, seconded by C. Mason and passed.

Recognition of Ms. Carmen Creamer for 12 years of service to JCHLC: M. Burke thanked Ms. Creamer for her service and presented gifts of appreciation from JCHLC. Ms. Creamer made closing comments in regards to the importance of history, the amount of historic resources in Jefferson County. Ms. Creamer closed by stating despite the mounting challenges faced in preserving our rich assortment of valued County historic resources, that she loved working with everyone on JCHLC.

L. Koonce stated that a candidate for County Clerk, Mr. Herb Snyder had informed him that he would like to see the Jefferson County Courthouse used in a more historical focus should he be elected.

Status of NR & CL nominations: J. Demer notified JCHLC that the National Register nomination for the property known as “Feagan’s Mill” had been resubmitted to the WV SHPO office.

C. Mason thanked everyone who submitted letters of support for a grant he had submitted to WV SHPO for work to be conducted on the White House Farm chimney.

E. Jenkins informed the JCHLC that a historic family cemetery was undergoing a successful restoration and was near completion. Mr. Jenkins detailed the specifics of the project, noted that one of the graves belongs to Gen. William Darke.

S. Lambert made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by M. Burke. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.