



Minutes

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

7pm - Charles Town Visitor's Center

110 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV

August 17, 2016

Members Present: Martin Burke (Chair), Curt Mason, Eric Jenkins, Leigh Koonce, Sara Lambert **Guests:** Peter Onoszko (County Commissioner), Bill Theriault, John Demer, Rob Aitcheson, Paul Rosa, Bo Bolyard

M. Burke called the meeting into order at 7:01pm.

Introductions: M. Burke welcomed and introduced Peter Onoszko, newly appointed County Commissioner and JCHLC liaison. Mr. Onoszko introduced himself to members present, noting his interest in military history and Civil War history. In closing, P. Onoszko noted that though he was assigned to be the JCHLC liaison for the County Commission, he said he would have requested the appointment under different circumstances and he looks forward to being an active participant.

Minutes: Minutes of the July 22, 2016 meeting submitted by L. Koonce.

Acceptance was moved by M. Burke, seconded by C. Mason and passed.

Vote on serving as local government sponsor for an ABPP conservation easement grant, Old Standard Quarry: M. Burke provided background on the specifics of the project, noting the four interested parties involved. L. Koonce requested a brief timeline of the property history, which M. Burke and P. Rosa provided. Additionally, at Mr. Koonce's request, M. Burke and P. Rosa discussed perceived potential options for usage of the areas to be conserved and unrestricted in a potential easement. L. Koonce thanked Mr. Rosa for the information provided. C. Mason asked about clarification on the American Battlefield Protection Program's (ABPP) involvement on conservation easements as opposed to land acquisition. M. Burke informed JCHLC that the project fit within parameters of ABPP project guidelines. P. Rosa stated that the Harpers Ferry Conservancy was in full support of the project and believed that it should be supported by JCHLC.

C. Mason moved to vote yes on JCHLC's acting as a local government sponsor for the ABPP grant to be submitted by the Civil War Trust. L. Koonce seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: C. Mason presented the Treasurer's Report.

C. Mason informed everyone that the template for the report had been revamped. M. Burke provided background on the updated reports and the current balance in JCHLC funds. M. Burke also notified those in attendance that the JCHLC had just received a grant reimbursement from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation for the Coyle Cemetery Restoration project, but it was not yet on the report because the funds had just been received. M. Burke then discussed the variances in amounts that JCHLC receives from the County through the Hotel/Motel Tax.

S. Lambert moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, E. Jenkins seconded and the motion passed.

WV GeoExplorer Project Report: B. Theriault discussed a recent meeting held with the Dean of the Shepherd University Library and with Tori Myers in regards to the potential collaboration on the WV GeoExplorer project. B. Theriault noted that the meeting was positive and proposed to the members present that T. Myers continue to update the

database for the website and that if agreed to by Shepherd University, that Shepherd University be the host of the WV GeoExplorer Project. In the interim, B. Theriault proposed that funding continue to be sought through grants and fundraising. M. Burke commented that JCHLC would be willing to establish a third memorandum of understanding with Shepherd University to host the West Virginia GeoExplorer project.

Vote on JC Landmark nomination – Bethesda United Methodist Church, Moler’s Crossroad: M. Burke and E. Jenkins provided background and history on the process to nominate Bethesda United Methodist Church. Our SU summer intern, Lauren Kelly, prepared the documentation necessary for the nomination. M. Burke and L. Koonce noted that JCHLC should publicize the potential designation of the site as a County Landmark via press and social media.

C. Mason moved to nominate Bethesda United Methodist Church, E. Jenkins seconded and the motion passed.

Discussion of National Register Nomination - Feagan’s Mill: John Demer summarized the current status of the nomination. SHPO recommended a number of revisions, including incorporating the circa 1940 house (contributing building) and meat house (contributing structure) as part of the total mill site property. Nomination to be considered for approval on Sept 30 by WV Culture and History.

Vote on updates to JCHLC historic resources inventory: M. Burke provided background on the process to update the HLC’s historic resources inventory, noting the specific proposed updates. M. Burke also suggested that the recently destroyed Abraham Snyder barn’s foundation is still in existence and should be photographed. E. Jenkins noted that there may be Historic American Building Survey photos in the Library of Congress. Group discussed acquiring permanent signage for high priority properties, and ways to assist owners who are interested in installing markers and permanent signage.

L. Koonce moved to approve the updates to the JCHLC historic resources inventory. S. Lambert seconded and the motion passed.

AmeriCorps Member Report: M. Burke initiated the report by providing an update on the completion of two summer academic internships recently completed. R. Aitcheson informed JCHLC that final production of two sets of brochures for local distribution were in process, with a third soon to be ready for first draft. R. Aitcheson then notified JCHLC that he would be leading a tour of the Summit Point battlefield for the battle’s 152nd anniversary on Sunday, August 21, 2016 and that it would be jointly presented with the newly formed Friends of the Summit Point Battlefield. P. Onoszko suggested that JCHLC promote such events through local radio public service announcements. R. Aitcheson concluded comments by stating that the new JCHLC website is continuing to be developed and visitation and usage of the site was growing since the initial launch.

Peter Burr Farm: M. Burke discussed the recent award of a Fairs and Festivals grant through the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, which will be used for upgrading facilities at the Peter Burr Farm Historic Site. M. Burke then discussed future project plans for the site. S. Lambert asked if the instillation of 18th Century fencing was in the proposed project plans, which M. Burke confirmed. M. Burke also informed the members that discussions were underway with the Jefferson County School Board to bring County 4th grade students to Peter Burr Farm in October as well. M. Burke concluded by informing everyone that that he had been contacted by a relative of an individual who was a Burr relations and the family wants to make a donation to the Peter Burr Farm in her honor.

REPORTS:

Shepherdstown Battlefield: M. Burke informed JCHLC that the Stum House had been demolished on a recently acquired property on the battlefield and the last step in the process was to finalize the conservation easement on the property with the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle. M. Burke added that the Van Evera tract project would then be completed. M. Burke then discussed two additional preservation projects currently underway at the battlefield.

Jefferson County Courthouse Committee: L. Koonce updated members that a recent attempt to meet with the current County Clerk had been postponed until the upcoming election had passed and a new County Clerk had been elected. L. Koonce then noted that the FY 2017 budget had a line item that allowed for window replacement on the Courthouse with funding anticipated through a State grant. L. Koonce concluded by informing members that he had presented a tour of the Peter Burr Farm to a local garden club that evening.

Recruiting for the next AmeriCorps member: M. Burke updated members that no new applications had been submitted to fill the 2017 AmeriCorps member position with JCHLC.

Real Estate Workshop: M. Burke informed members that JCHLC would jointly host a workshop for real estate professionals on October 27, 2016 at Charles Washington Hall in Charles Town. Mr. Burke also noted that finalization of the project were underway.

Tax Credit Workshop: M. Burke notified JCHLC that a tax credit workshop would be hosted in Middleway on October 26, 2016 and Jennifer Brennan with the West Virginia Division of Culture & History would be the presenter. Mr. Burke noted that he would update JCHLC on the workshop at the September meeting once he had confirmed details with the Middleway Conservancy.

C. Mason made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by S. Lambert. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.