



Minutes

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

7pm - Charles Town Visitor's Center

108 N. George St., Charles Town, WV

December 21, 2016

Members Present: Martin Burke (Chair), Curt Mason (Treasurer), Leigh Koonce, Sara Lambert (Secretary) **Guests:** Peter Onoszko (County Commissioner), Bill Senseny, John Demer, Rob Aitcheson

M. Burke called the meeting into order at 7:07pm.

Introductions: M. Burke welcomed all in attendance for the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 16 meeting submitted by Sara Lambert and Rob Aitcheson.

Acceptance was moved by C. Mason, seconded by L. Koonce and passed.

Treasurer's Report: C. Mason presented a report on the income and expenses for JCHLC in October 2016. M. Burke announced that at the next meeting, the upcoming 2017 budget would be a primary topic. Mr. Burke also informed HLC members of the Commission's current bank account balance.

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

Resolution supporting the increase of WV investment tax credits: M. Burke provided background on the initiative, discussion ensued. C. Mason provided insight from the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, of which he is a board member.

L. Koonce moved to authorize as presented, seconded by C. Mason and the motion passed.

WV GeoExplorer Project: M. Burke announced that B. Theriault (project manager) could not attend the meeting and as such, no update would be given on the WV GeoExplorer at the meeting.

AmeriCorps Member Report: R. Aitcheson presented the newly published driving tour of Jefferson County which features the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Mr. Aitcheson also updated JCHLC on various projects, including fundraising, grant proposals and site work at Peter Burr Farm and the Coyle Cemetery. Mr. Aitcheson then announced this would be his last meeting as JCHLC's AmeriCorps member and thanked the HLC for their support and the opportunity to serve, especially noting the support provided by C. Mason and M. Burke.

Listing Snow Hill for sale: M. Burke provided background on the proposal to list the property for sale with provisions for preservation easement included. J. Demer asked if the small school building was part of JCHLC's property at the site, which M. Burke answered that it was not. L. Koonce suggested approaching the Jefferson County Fair Board and Rock Spring Church as potential buyers. L. Koonce then suggested expanding the National Register to include the surrounding contributing structures before listing the property for sale. M. Burke agreed and affirmed the suggestion.

The vote on the listing of Snow Hill was tabled.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Shepherdstown Battlefield: M. Burke notified JCHLC that the easement language for the Van Evera property was still being negotiated. Mr. Burke also notified JCHLC that the HLC would take ownership of an additional 11 acres on the battlefield in 2017. Mr. Burke then updated the commissioners on the recent circuit court ruling on the Jefferson County Planning Commission case, re: Far Away Farms.

AmeriCorps Recruiting: M. Burke announced the selection of Lauren Kelly as the next AmeriCorps member for JCHLC in 2017. Mr. Burke notified the HLC that Ms. Kelly would start in January 2017.

National Register submission for Wild Goose: M. Burke notified JCHLC that he has been in touch with the owner of Wild Goose Farm and the owner has expressed interest in having the structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Burke also stated that the submission would move forward.

Establishing and Funding “Our History, Our Community Fund” at EWVCF: M. Burke updated JCHLC on the status of the approved establishment of the fund and steps being taken for fundraising.

Feagan’s Mill NR submission: J. Demer notified JCHLC that the submission for Feagan’s Mill had been approved by the WV Division of Culture and History and was now in Washington, D.C. with the National Park Service for consideration.

Harpers Ferry – Old Standard tract grant and easement: M. Burke notified JCHLC that the HLC had received notification of the grant award from the American Battlefield Protection Program to partially fund a conservation easement on the property. The JC Planning Commission will be reviewing a proposed outdoor resort project on the uneased part of the property next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

P. Onoszko announced that he had spoken with the County Clerk – elect and suggested she attend a meeting with JCHLC to collaborate on projects concerning the Jefferson County Courthouse. Commissioner Onoszko also said he would bring her to the January 2017 meeting. Mr. Onoszko also stated that the newly elected County Clerk was receptive to preservation priorities with the building.

M. Burke provided background on projects involving Duffields Depot, a National Register site in Jefferson County, along with insight into JCHLC’s involvement with the group working to preserve the site. B. Senseny suggested a collaboration with the Sons of the Confederacy (Jefferson County) on rehabilitative work on the property.

L. Koonce announced that for the first time in West Virginia history, two women occupy Circuit Judge seats in Jefferson County.

S. Lambert made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by C. Mason. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.