

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

July 20, 2011

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Michael Musick. Guests: Frances Morgan, Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault

Minutes: Minutes of the May 15, 2011 meeting were distributed (the June meeting having been cancelled). Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Increased reporting requirements were mentioned. John Allen noted that the state offered to audit HLC, but they have not responded to Allen's follow-up e-mail. Amoroso pointed out that there will be a need for a new treasurer when he steps down. Allen said he will be able to take over the position, as he will then no longer be chair. A letter from Jennifer S. Maghan, County Clerk, dated July 12, 2011, regarding the annual financial report was discussed. Amoroso remarked to Commissioner Morgan that the HLC finances are very straightforward, so there is not much to report. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Martin Burke, and passed.

Insurance: Allen has explained to the WV Counties Risk Pool that this will be discussed tonight. Compared with the HLC's current insurance, the contribution to the Risk Pool would be fairly comparable price-wise. Morgan said she did not see a huge difference. Options were discussed. Treasurer Don Amoroso will retire as our treasurer in March. Allen explained that we would become owners with the Risk Pool. Amoroso noted that the Risk Pool should be aware of the HLC liability of school children visiting the Burr Farm. Morgan urged a call to the Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission, which uses the Risk Pool. Allen said we don't need to make a decision now, and may come up with other questions.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault reported that the project has attained several goals. The entire landgrant base map is completed. They are now able to work toward a gazeteer. This will take 2-3 months. Work is proceeding on the October symposium. Shepherd students are working on projects, including a vertical map for Virginius Island. There is a similar map project for the Beall-Air property. Theriault inquired whether there would be any additional money for GeoHistory this year. Allen said he didn't know, but would check on what might be available.

Poor Farm: John Allen said he has an estimate of \$350 from Virginia Pro-Roofing for repair of part of the Poor House roof that has blown off. Martin Burke moved approval of this expenditure, which was seconded by Musick and passed.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke reported that so far only trimming of the silver maple (\$1,000) has been approved. He distributed handouts listing renovation improvements,

with estimates for the cost of each improvement. This was discussed. Allen said that we can determine how much we will spend on the farm per quarter. Burke is trying to get the farm ready for the next big event. Allen stated that we have budgeted \$7,000 for the farm. Musick moved that we approve the Peter Burr Farm expenditures, which was seconded by Amoroso and passed. Lighting was discussed. Burke will choose the lighting fixtures for the barn and kitchen. He has been asked about what the policy is on taking dogs to the farm. There is no present policy. Morgan suggested putting bags out. Burke reported that the wetlands are being studied by the WVU Department of Forestry. This will enable us to get lots of free plants. The spike in previous water bills has not been repeated. Theriault inquired about storm water management.

Cement Mill Purchase: Martin Burke is waiting for official paperwork from the state to transfer the property acquisition funding from the county to the HLC. The official memo stating the HLC role in the acquisition will be sent around via e-mail. The HLC's intern, Jamie Stoner, is working on the National Register application for the property.

Bullskin Run Historic District: Bullskin Historic District nomination has been advertised. It will probably be approved again by the state review board. A copy of the nomination was presented by Allen, showing the district being nominated under criteria A and C. There are 181 contributing buildings, sites and structures, and 108 non-contributing. The extent is approximately 5,000 acres. The commissioners discussed the nomination and were pleased with the work. It is going forward to be looked at one more time at the state level.

Site Review: The Kearneysville Pike cell tower (Hummingbird Lane) was considered. Allen went to the balloon tests, and did not find it terribly obtrusive. The cell installation in St. Peter's Church, Harpers Ferry, was considered. It is outside our jurisdiction. Next the Leetown cell tower (Payne's Ford Road) was brought up. It is 120 feet behind the USDA building. Allen went there to see the preliminary balloon test. The primary concern with this silo is its visibility from "Prato Rio." He will go out for a final balloon test. It doesn't require our action now. Allen showed the plan for the Harvest Point Community Church on Route 51, a large project. Burke said it brings up a historic viewshed issue. The Jefferson Asphalt office on Route 51 was brought up (530 square feet). Allen also displayed the plan of the Tuscawilla Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. On these last two sites, the HLC agreed that no negative impact to historic resources will be caused by this project.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Martin Burke reported on our website. Monthly updates are continuing. They are filling up information on county landmarks. Regarding property easements, Burke and Allen are studying areas where people will be notified of tax benefits to property owners. Lastly, Allen commented on the annual Jefferson County Historical Society picnic to be held at Boidestone's Place August 3.