

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

March 21, 2012

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Martin Burke, Eric Jenkins, Michael Musick. Guests: Frances Morgan, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting were distributed by outgoing secretary Michael Musick, who has kept them since March 2008. Acceptance 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 announced that we are solvent. His handouts were reviewed. We have \$19, 145.99 in our operating account. Since our last meeting we have received \$1, 749.78 from the hotel/motel tax. Cement Mill expenditures by Martin Burke were \$3, 227. 79. Our mailbox bill was paid. Burke noted that we should keep our Cement Mill expenses separate, as we are supposed to be reimbursed by the National Park Service for them. Our only outstanding bill is for lighting in the barn. The lighting is now there. John Allen thanked Amoroso for his service. This will be his last meeting. Acceptance of the treasurer's report was moved by Musick, seconded by Creamer, and passed.

Election of Officers: The proposed slate of officers is: Chairman, Martin Burke; Treasurer, John Allen; Secretary, Eric Jenkins. Musick moved acceptance of the slate, which was seconded by Creamer and passed.

Site Reviews: Concerning the Payne's Ford Road cell silo, we received back responses from cell consultants EBI stating that our representative, John Allen, was not present during balloon testing. We are replying that this is incorrect, that Allen was present, and again asking that the structure be reduced to tree level. We received a letter from Peter Fricke, of the Middleway Conservancy, calling our attention to the proposed demolition of the John F. Smith House, which is within the Middleway Historic District, and asking what can be done about it. Allen responded with a letter to Steve Barney, indicating two points in ordinances that apply, Section 4.4 and 5.10. Allen has not yet heard back from Barney. Burke asked about the Shepherdstown cell tower, which led to a brief discussion.

Cement Mill: Burke spent \$3,300 before the last meeting on cleanup. He met with the Chief Ranger of the Antietam National Battlefield. The signs we posted have been stolen, so we will buy more signs. Presently going on is a survey, the field work for which has been completed. There are three encroachments. There was a discussion. We will know more in April. Allen noted that the Civil War Trust was impressed when they met here and visited the site. They are willing to spend more on this property. We need to further clean up the site, and would like to have DNR patrol it. The NPS special resources study goes to Congress in Summer 2013. There are safety issues on the road. We need work by Paula Reed on three components for a National Register nomination (we already voted \$500 for her work), and Amoroso has a bill for \$1,000. Burke remarked that it should be a National Historic *Landmark*, which has a higher threshold. A landmark application

costs no more. Reed will finish her research by the end of August. Musick moved that we spend \$2,500 for additional research by Reed, which was seconded by Creamer and passed.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault reported on the March 10 colloquium. Burke was there. APU would like a cooperative effort; one comment was that "It's time for the preservation tribes to get together." The website was improved for the meeting. Cooperation with the HLC is needed. Theriault is working with Keith Alexander on the September conference. HLC should identify what the next project should be, perhaps photos of structures. There was discussion of the great value of images, and of Shepherd as a possible repository for physical images. Eric Jenkins has scanned images for the Berkeley County Historical Society.

Peter Burr Farm: Burke reported that there have been a number of cleanups, and debris moved from wetlands. Lighting is going into the barn as we speak. On June 24 Bike Virginia will have lunch there. The breadbakers will start baking in May or April. Reliving History has two requests: Can they bring in chickens and sheep for specific events?(it's OK with HLC); Can they plan construction of a post and beam structure with kitchen? (Allen said we need to discuss this with our Risk Pool insurer - they generally disapprove of fires). Frances Morgan noted that they need to contact the Health Department. There was discussion. They want to cook on site, and that depends on our insurance. Amoroso mentioned our need for Fairs and Festivals events. Burke has had discussions with Parks and Recreation. We would pay them \$1,500 per year. These discussions will be continued. Theriault showed 1989 photos of the Burr Farm. For the Jefferson County GIS Addressing Office, we must give the physical address of the farm.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Musick reported briefly on the Preservation Alliance of WV grant, and then noted John Allen's outstanding chairmanship of the HLC, which is ending. This was greeted by applause. Burke suggested a real estate listing of historic houses for sale in the county. Creamer suggested realtors do the footwork, with us providing links. Burke will research it. Allen noted that we are now required to submit quarterly reports to the county. Burke is in discussions with Shepherd student Andrew Parker on a 400-hour Summer internship.