



## Minutes

### Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

7pm - Charles Town Visitor's Center

S. George Street, Charles Town, WV

May 18, 2016

**Members Present:** Martin Burke (Chair), Curt Mason, Eric Jenkins, Leigh Koonce, Sara Lambert **Guests:** Virginia Rowzie, Linda Briganti, Bonnie Dorman, Will Dorman, William S. Dorman Jr., Lauren Kelly, Brittany Williams, Bill Theriault, John Demer, Rob Aitcheson

M. Burke called the meeting into order at 7:00pm

**Introductions:** M. Burke introduced Linda Briganti and Virginia Rowzie as the evening's presenters on the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Home and Garden Tour of which the Peter Burr Farm was a part.

**Presentation by Shenandoah and Potomac Garden Club:** Virginia Rowzie presented on the two day Home and Garden Tour, noting the success of the event and all vendors who participated. Mrs. Rowzie then presented a framed water color of the Peter Burr house to JCHLC. She thanked Curt Mason, JCHLC Commissioner for his assistance promoting the event and presented an additional gift to JCHLC, a guest book for the Peter Burr Farm. Leigh Koonce thanked Mrs. Rowzie and Shenandoah and Potomac Garden Club for their work in highlighting the Peter Burr Farm. Linda Briganti, also representing the Shenandoah and Potomac Garden Club thanked JCHLC for making usage of the Peter Burr Farm possible for the event, noting the site looked very good. Following verbal comments, a video production was presented by Bonnie Dorman highlighting the event.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting submitted by Sara Lambert and Rob Aitcheson. Acceptance was moved by C. Mason, seconded by E. Jenkins and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** M. Burke spoke about new JCHLC treasurer, Curt Mason and informed the Commissioners that a book keeper had been contracted to assist with JCHLC finances. Mr. Burke provided current balance of JCHLC funds but also noted there were many expenses to be paid. Mr. Burke also presented the draft budget for FY – 2017, noting that the State of West Virginia has still not passed a budget for the upcoming fiscal year which will affect the JCHLC Fairs and Festival's grant. M. Burke noted upcoming expenses, including buying a new lawnmower for the Peter Burr Farm. Leigh Koonce noted that he had been made aware that the State would not pass a budget and would be shut down, likely only temporarily. M. Burke then informed JCHLC that he had sent an email to the County Commission requesting inclusion on proposed additional levy. Eric Jenkins then asked if a vote would be taken on this position, noting that he was not in favor of the levy. C. Mason then noted that libraries are not in favor of this levy. Discussion ensued with Mr. Koonce suggesting that a written request be made to the County Commission asking for support on inclusion in the levy, and also called for a vote on the matter. Bill Theriault provided background on previous policies in regards to the levy. Mr. Jenkins noted that previous comments made by a JCHLC commissioner may affect support for the issue. Discussion ensued on previous policies from JCHLC on the levy issue.

L. Koonce made a motion to send a written request to the Jefferson County Commission from JCHLC to start a dialogue with Commission members about the levy. Sara Lambert asked to amend the motion to have the letter request inclusion in all financial discussions with the County Commission. Curt Mason seconded the motion as amended, the motion passed with one vote against.

Discussion ensued on the bread baking projects at the Peter Burr Farm and alternatives to provide the head of the project with additional volunteers. B. Theriault provided background potentially approaching the Rumsey Technical Institute for involvement with the bread bakers at the Peter Burr Farm.

**WV GeoExplorer Project Report:** B. Theriault presented updates that a “kick starter” project had been launched to fund changes to the WV GeoExplorer site. Mr. Theriault also noted that a WV Humanities Council Mini Grant grant had been identified to provide additional support for the project and sent to M. Burke to submit.

**Approvals:** M. Burke provided background on the proposed easement of the Van Evera property, required as part of the ABPP Grant, at the Shepherdstown Battlefield.

C. Mason moved to authorize a resolution to permit Martin Burke to sign the deed of conservation easement for the JCHLC, seconded by S. Lambert and passed.

M. Burke then provided background on a proposed letter of support for the minor boundary expansion of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to include the Allstadt property.

L. Koonce moved to approve the proposed letter of support, seconded by C. Mason and passed.

**Snow Hill roof replacement:** S. Lambert presented updates on the new request for proposals for the project. Mrs. Lambert noted that JCHLC now has to work with a new grant monitor in the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. Mrs. Lambert also noted that two potential bidders are interested for the adjusted project at Snow Hill.

**AmeriCorps Member Report:** R. Aitcheson presented additional information on the Home and Garden Tour at the Peter Burr Farm, thanking the Shenandoah and Potomac Garden Council for their involvement at the site. Mr. Aitcheson also noted that JCHLC has launched a new website and that work continues to be conducted to improve user interface. Mr. Aitcheson then noted that a 52 acre property on the Summit Point Battlefield is currently slated for development and home owners in the adjacent development had started a small friends group to try and save the property from further development.

## **REPORTS:**

**Shepherdstown Battlefield:** M. Burke and C. Mason provided updates on projects pertaining to the Shepherdstown Battlefield. Mr. Burke notified JCHLC that another land acquisition project had been identified on the core of the battlefield and JCHLC would be acquiring that land in late 2016.

M. Burke then discussed ongoing projects with the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board and the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle as they relate to battlefield preservation in the County. Mr. Burke concluded by informing JCHLC of the schedule for the demolition of the Stum house at the Shepherdstown Battlefield. C. Mason provided additional comments on upcoming visits to Congressional offices about the boundary expansion of Antietam National Battlefield to include Shepherdstown. Mr. Mason noted that he would be going to meet with Senator Manchin and had recently contacted local offices of Senate and Congressional representation in regards to the project.

**Status of National Register & County Landmark Nominations:** John Demer provided updates on the Nation Register nomination for Feagans’ Mill. Mr. Demer also noted his having attended classes at Shepherd University with two new interns with JCHLC. He then commented that he was assisting JCHLC intern, Lauren Kelly with research on undocumented landmark properties.

**Introduction of student interns:** M. Burke introduced two new student interns, who will be volunteering 400 hours each over the summer as part of an academic internship through Shepherd University. Brittany Williams provided background on the process of developing the internship and updates her current projects. Mrs. Williams also discussed her capstone project, which will focus on grave marker iconography. Lauren Kelly discussed her projects for the summer with JCHLC

and informed JCHLC that she will likely be conducting an inventory and National Register nomination of Popodicon, the traditional home of Presidents of Shepherd University. M. Burke provided additional updates on the project and welcomed both interns to the JCHLC.

**Graphic Design Project:** M. Burke informed JCHLC that additional designs had been provided by Eden Design Co. of the new JCHLC logo. Mr. Burke noted that the project is getting closer to completion and he would keep the Commissioners informed.

**June meeting:** M. Burke noted that he would not be able to attend the June meeting as scheduled and proposed changing the date of the meeting. The date of the June meeting of JCHLC is June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Commissioner Comments:** E. Jenkins notified JCHLC that the Abraham Snyder Barn had been torn down. Mr. Jenkins also notified everyone that representatives of the Methodist Church at Moler's Crossroads had contacted him to see what the process was to nominate the site as a County Landmark.

Leigh Koonce announced he would be presenting on women and politics in Jefferson County.

C. Mason made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by E. Jenkins. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.