

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission November 20, 2013

Members Present: Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Eric Jenkins, Curt Mason, Michael Musick.
Guests: Peter Fricke, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting were distributed (there having been no meeting in October, due to lack of a quorum). Acceptance was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Curt Mason, and passed.

Presentation by Peter Fricke: Curt Mason suggested that Mr. Fricke, President of the Middleway Conservancy Association and member of Envision Jefferson 2035, be allowed to speak at this point, which was agreed to.

Mr. Fricke stated that the Middleway Conservancy is very concerned about preservation of the viewshed around that village, and preservation of the core area of the nearby Civil War engagement at Smithfield Crossing which is included in an area zoned industrial by the county planning commission. He urged development outside the viewshed, and gave the recommendations of the Conservancy board, on which they had reached consensus. He distributed copies of a letter from the Conservancy, signed by himself, to Ms. Jennie Brockman, Jefferson County Planning Officer, dated November 15, 2013, detailing five recommendations for future land use planning, and accompanied by a map showing the Middleway Historic District and Preferred Growth Area.

Also Mr. Fricke is making an application for a BAD Buildings grant (Brownfield Abandoned and Dilapidated Buildings Program). He asked the JCHLC for; 1) a letter of support, by Dec. 20; and 2) a commitment to send a representative to the BAD Buildings Team in 2014. There was extended discussion of these matters. Mr. Fricke noted that thus far no opposition to the Conservancy's position has appeared. Carmen Creamer moved that we write the letter of support, and that we appoint a representative to the BAD Buildings Team if the grant is successful, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. Burke will work with Fricke on the letter.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was distributed. Treasurer Creamer noted that we have been spending more than we have been taking in, and that we need to be cautious for the next few months. We need to balance our checkbook. Although there have been no mistakes in the past year, we now have a difference of \$877. Several checks are outstanding. Treasurer Creamer and Chairman Burke have been working on this. Burke discussed the handouts. Our only ongoing projects are Heidi Carbaugh's archives project, which is not to exceed \$700 and we've asked Mike Taylor Inc. to seal windows at Snow Hill. Demolition of the Lowe house will be next year. Creamer remarked that we should be all right, but we shouldn't initiate more projects at this time. A sign will be posted at the Cement Mill, required as part of the Federal grant, and paid for the SBPA, stating where the money for the property came from. There was discussion of the *revised* budget for 2014. Musick moved to approve the *revised* 2014 budget from \$38,262 to \$37,185, which was seconded by Curt Mason and passed. Our Capital Assets and Depreciation Policy (basically taken from the county policy) will be submitted to the state and county auditors. Creamer moved that we accept the Capital Assets and Depreciation Policy (as outlined in a handout), which was seconded by Curt Mason and passed. Mason moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Eric Jenkins and passed.

WV GeoExplorer Project: Bill Theriault reported progress on digitizing his collection of about 14,000 photos. It includes many stills from a 1942 "See Yourself" movie. There are 1,500 photos from a barn

survey. Among the valuable aspects of the photos are the fact that some document structures that no longer exist. Melinda Day, of the Harpers Ferry NHP, is doing workshops on GeoExplorer. There are six tutorials up and the search engine is being tweaked. There will soon be a geographical index. The Women's Land Army at Media Farm during World War I, including Julia Davis material, is also represented.

Theriault and Burke have discussed donation of Theriault's collection of original photos, negatives, microfilm, and prints to the JCHLC archives now stored at Shepherd University Library. Musick moved to accept the donation of the photos and other items, which was seconded by Mason and passed.

JCHLC Properties Update:

At Peter Burr Farm, the site was visited October 21-25 by around 500 Jefferson County fourth-graders. A letter of thanks will go to Deborah Rochford for organizing the event. Burke has spoken with the Jefferson County Economic Development Authority about sinkholes and the drainage ditch and a meeting with the County Engineer is to be scheduled. We will encourage volunteers Laurie and Ed Schwartz of Reliving History to continue their fine work cutting the grass and organizing programs at PBF.

At the Cement Mill, as of September 25 JCHLC granted a conservation easement held by the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle. The National Register nomination was reviewed by the state board September 27 in Wheeling. WV SHPO is still awaiting comment from the state of Maryland and the nomination will be forwarded to the NPS in Washington.

The Lowe Tract closing was September 30. Habitat for Humanity and Southern States have helped remove recycled materials from the site. We are waiting for Health Dept. inspection before submitting a request for demolition permit.

At Snow Hill/Poor Farm, we have the Historic Structures Report, which will be put online. The big issues cited are rodent control, lack of a back porch, and no tenant. Recommends mothballing structure.

Burke gave a presentation on November 12 to the Jefferson County Commission on Courthouse Landscaping options. Consensus of public meeting was a slightly modified Option A, which was voted on and accepted by JC Commission. JCHLC was asked to help select concrete color.

Trough Road Cell Tower: A 130-foot tower was approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Burke will testify again against allowing the tower construction on December 10 before the JC Planning Commission. Extended discussion followed.

Miscellaneous: Curt Mason broached the subject of Feagan's Mill as an endangered structure. He will meet with the president of the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia this Friday. Burke has written a letter earlier this year to FEMA in support. Our goal is preservation of the resource. Mason asked whether the JCHLC would write a letter of support to the president of the Preservation Alliance of WV. Creamer pointed out that this is the only building of its type in the county. It was agreed that Mason will draft a letter, and Burke will sign it.

The next JCHLC meeting will be at Eric Jenkins's home in Uvilla December 18 at 6 p.m. Creamer moved adjournment, Jenkins seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.