

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

October 19, 2011

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Michael Musick. Guest: Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting were distributed. 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. A donation of \$50 was received from Betty Lowe; the DAR held a regional meeting in the barn at the Peter Burr Farm. Insurance was discussed. We switch insurance over at the next billing cycle. Amoroso read a letter from Jefferson Utilities asking for \$97 for a machine to test water. We have \$12,001.70 in our account. A check received for the GeoHistory Project was discussed. Martin Burke noted that tree hazards at the Peter Burr Farm have been eliminated. Two tall trees will be taken down. We are losing shingles; Amoroso said that the HLC will have to address that. This was followed by discussion. Money for Fairs and Festivals has been appropriated, which was also discussed.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault reported that his people are getting ready for the Shepherd symposium on October 29. Anne Knowles will be the keynote speaker. American Public University is holding a colloquium March 10, 2012. Theriault wants to put together a panel discussion for it, and asked members to be present. Work on the GeoHistory Project is proceeding well. Students are transcribing Virginius Island material. This will present a vertical slice through time, and will be presented at the symposium. Theriault spoke about what the symposium presentations will be. It's free. He also described the grants applied for. Content creation will continue.

Poor Farm: Martin Burke had a conversation with Thomas Bayuzik, Jr., Executive Director of Economic Development. They agreed to talk about economic development of the farm. John Allen noted that we need more quotes on closing the farm for the winter.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke distributed a handout showing proposed renovations and improvements, which were discussed. John Allen stated that lighting is a pressing matter. Other concerns are marking property boundaries and planting additional trees. Work on the former will take place this month. Barn lighting will be done next month. Burke moved that we spend \$2,300 for planting trees and staking boundaries, which was seconded by Amoroso and passed. We will wait on the drainage ditches. Martin has received two requests for use of the farm. John Allen moved that we allow another summer program by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society, which was seconded by Amoroso and passed. We also received a request from Fellowship Bible Church for an October 29 Youth Festival expected to draw 70-80 attendees. Various related issues were discussed, such as forms, insurance, charging to have bathrooms cleaned. We agreed to retrofit Parks and Recreation forms for the farm, which was followed by discussion.

Martin Burke will talk to the pastor. Burke said that the Harpers Ferry Job Corps is coming back. The *Martinsburg Journal* newspaper will be there Friday.

Cement Mill: Burke reported that he thinks we have a contract for \$375,000, with \$20,000 in earnest money and settlement on November 30. Walter Washington is our attorney. Burke displayed a map of the Harry W. Blunt IV property. There are two issues: first, John Doyle's \$25,000 might not be available at closing. John Allen moved that we ask the county commission for funding for November 10 if a contract is signed or the owners are not willing to receive money after closing. This was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. Second, Burke suggested the HLC pay closing costs of around \$2,576 (\$1,600 for title insurance is within that) Amoroso will open a new account for these funds, the "Cement Mill Acquisition Fund." We will know this week if we have a signed contract.

SHPO Grant: John Allen explained that the West Virginia Preservation Alliance wants a grant for a conference. They need a CLG as a partner. The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia has asked the HLC to partner with them. They need contact information, etc., and signatures. Musick agreed to provide information, etc. Burke spoke in favor of it. Previous SHPO information came from Allen. Burke moved in favor of the request, which was seconded by Amoroso and passed.

Website, etc.: Allen expressed amazement at the number of people that go to our website. On November 3 Susan Pierce and Erin Riebe from SHPO will meet with the County Commission regarding the Bullskin Run Historic District. Burke will keep us informed of developments.