

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

September 19, 2011

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of the August 17, 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. We have gotten \$4,753.70 from the hotel/motel tax since our last meeting. The breadbakers are doing well. Water is costing 47 cents per gallon. We are in much better shape than we have been. Burke noted that trees will be trimmed next Tuesday at the Peter Burr farm, which was followed by discussion. John Allen read the e-mails he has exchanged with the state auditors. They are unable to do an audit until April 2012. Allen will speak to the appropriate county officers about our situation, and forward the information we have received to them. We don't know what the state auditors will charge. Commissioner Frances Morgan noted that if an audit is not done, when the county responds in the negative to the state's question of whether all of its subordinates have complied with the auditing requirement, there will be an adverse finding. She thinks it is at the HLC's pleasure whether we spend the \$3,000 on the audit, and explained her thoughts. Don Amoroso recounted what happened last year. Allen will get a price from the state auditors. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Burke, seconded by Allen, and passed.

**GeoHistory Project:** Bill Theriault reported that he had a presentation on the project about two weeks ago at the Byrd Center at Shepherd that had good attendance. Seven or eight volunteers signed up. There will be a symposium on the project October 29 that will run from around 9 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m., and is free. They are chugging along on the Virginus Island part of the project, and have a vertical map, with 40-50 land grants for the island transcribed, etc.. Nothing has been found before 1751. It will be possible to watch aspects of the environment change over time. Reimbursement to Theriault for software, laptops, and a scanner was discussed. He submitted an itemized bill for \$1,725.86. Allen moved that we approve the expenditure of that amount, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

**Ordinance Changes:** John Allen was contacted by SHPO after they watched the county commission hearing on the Bullskin Run Historic District. At the hearing the county said that as of July 7 we have ordinances on historic districts. These increase setbacks for listed properties. Commissioner Morgan explained that various changes are being passed in steps. Allen wishes to make the HLC commissioners aware of the new ordinance changes - he wishes we had known about them. Commissioner Morgan noted that we do not know at what date the changes will be effective - she thinks information was in a packet of ordinance changes that had been moving through for a long time. There was additional comment by Morgan and an extended discussion that touched on county *versus*

federal regulations.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Martin Burke reported that he is worried about the Reliving History organization since Joyce Cole has left the area. Amoroso said that information about the upcoming Harvest Faire should be in the local newspapers. The breadbakers have one more baking session this season; they have been wildly successful. October 1 the DAR regional board will meet at the farm. Painting has been done by the Job Corps. Next Tuesday trees will be done. Burke has a list of other projects, which were discussed. We have estimates for lighting in the barn, and from Bart Wheatley for closing up the Poor Farm for the Winter. We need other Poor Farm estimates. At our next meeting Burke will have specific recommendations.

**Cement Mill Purchase:** Burke said we have made a standing offer of \$350,000. About ten days ago a "For Sale" sign appeared on the property. They want \$400,000. Our offer is good until mid-October. The deal is not dead, but there is no activity.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** The Harvest Faire will be October 8. John Allen said that on October 31 a Shepherd University preservation class will visit Summit Point and Middleway. Allen will lead and orient them. They will take photos and notes. Martin Burke moved adjournment, which was seconded by Musick and passed. Burke then moved that we reconvene, which was also seconded by Musick and passed. Burke then moved that we approve the expenditure of \$450 to install windows in the Peter Burr House kitchen, which was seconded by Musick and passed.