

## **Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting**

**February 17, 2010**

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Michael Musick. Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Heather McSharry, Bill Theriault, Donald Watts.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 20, 2010 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by John Allen and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Amoroso gave an abbreviated report of income and expenditures since the last report. \$270 was spent on the website, \$191.64 on utilities. There was no income. The water bill was \$90, and we seem to be headed down the same path of excessive cost as previously; the source of this at the Burr Farm has yet to be discovered. A discussion of the matter followed, with Bill Theriault suggesting someone who might make a free survey to find out where the water went. John Allen suggested an inspection after the snow melts. Don noted that we received a bill for \$180 for putting a biography of Julia Davis online. A discussion pointed out that this is properly a Jefferson County Historical Society issue, rather than one for the Historic Landmarks Commission. There is \$42,0029.07 in our operating account. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by John Allen and passed.

**Poor Farm:** Don Amoroso reported that the site is insured for liability. The building will not be safe until work is done on it.

**Viewshed Survey:** The survey is waiting for the snow to melt.

**Peter Burr Farm:** David Gibney's estimate for repairs was \$22,340. We don't know what that entails beyond fixing the wall. We are waiting until Spring to tackle water drainage issues. Bill Berry, from the Friends of Peter Burr, said there was supposed to be a meeting with teachers; things are in flux at the moment. Maggie Keeler stated via e-mail that she has nothing new to report. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, noted that her group did not hold a scheduled meeting due to the severe weather conditions. She hopes soon to have a rough schedule. Joyce and Don discussed the impending arrival of a documentary film crew from Los Angeles at the farm. There was discussion of what our vision should be for the site. Bill Theriault noted that revision of the master plan is still being worked on. The original idea was to have the farm make money.

**Section 106:** We just received in the mail a request for comment on a proposed Mountain Communities Water Extension.

**National Register Nominations:** The "Beverly" nomination was approved in Charleston. We have nothing more on the Appalachian Trail nomination.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Data:** Bill Theriault, for the Jefferson GeoHistory Project, observed that a monthly meeting will be held here at the Charles Town Visitors Center

tomorrow night. There will be a meeting March 9 at the Shepherd Center for Legislative Studies. We now have two grants in the works, one from the Arts and Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County, the other from the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. The HLC is focused on putting Bill's information in html and on the web. The HLC needs to decide what to do regarding a server. Discussion of the subject followed. There is a need to get into the design phase of the project, with the view to getting it on the internet. Eight or ten volunteers are working on the project now.

**Website:** Martin Burke is tonight at a county Parks and Recreation meeting on the Cement Mill site, as our HLC representative. John Allen mentioned various possible options offered on the Cement Mill property, and noted potential problems for the HLC, which were discussed.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** John Allen reported that new battlefield maps from the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission are out. These cover Shepherdstown, Smithfield Crossing, Summit Point, and Harpers Ferry. John then introduced intern Heather McSharry, who is doing 400 hours of work. Don noted that we have not yet heard back regarding the paperwork we submitted about a year ago on three Civil War markers for the Civil War Trails marker program.