

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

January 20, 2009

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Irvan Groff, Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault

Minutes: The minutes of the December 16, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Martin Burke, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Don Amoroso summarized expenses. He has the details. We now have \$42,490.71 in the bank. For the Peter Burr Farm there is \$28,610. John Allen stated that we need to carefully consider before spending money on the Burr House proposals. Martin Burke shared his experience with taking bids at the National Park Service. There they decided first on technical proposals. Bill Theriault suggested that Doug Reed evaluate the proposals. Carmen Creamer mentioned structural issues, and that we should talk to a structural engineer to evaluate proposals, which was followed by discussion. John Allen noted that we need to return our budget worksheet by February 18. He will send a draft to the HLC commissioners for comment. Carmen moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

Poor Farm: Martin Burke reported that we changed the last paragraph of the history of the Poor Farm on our website. Don stated that we should have liability insurance in a few days.

Viewshed Survey: Scenic America and Jones & Jones will be on site February 8 and 9. They will have most of their work done before they get here. Their work will be turned over to the Planning Department.

Peter Burr Farm: John Allen initiated a discussion of water drainage issues. Carmen will try to find out who to contact in county government on this matter. Irvan Groff reported from the Friends of Peter Burr on the farm during the recent windstorm. The tin roof made a great deal of noise, but Carmen pointed out from her own experience that this can be the case even for tight tin roofs. Bill Berry commented on the annual visit of fourth grade students, scheduled for May 18-22. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported two contributions of \$100 each. Homecoming will be Oct. 10-16. Last year there were 40 participants; this year about 100 people are being planned for. Joyce inquired about possible visits to the Burr House and Poor Farm by a group of investigators of the paranormal. John and Don noted that we have serious concerns about the Poor Farm, but have no problem with a visit to the Burr Farm. Joyce asked about a date in March for the group to visit the Burr Farm; Irvan noted that they should contact him before visiting; a discussion followed. Bill Theriault commented on his "dog and pony" show for Bill Marino's Shepherd University museum studies class. There was discussion of possible student projects at the farm and the courthouse.

Section 106: John Allen noted that he has received packets about changes to the rail line

at Shenandoah Junction: the mid-twentieth century bridge needs to be structurally modified. We have no concerns with that. Bill Theriault pointed out Al Hooper's interest in preserving the railroad right of way. Regarding the Stubbs Road cell tower (at 480 at Kearneysville), there is a proposed addition to an existing cell tower. After discussion, the HLC decided it had no comment on the matter.

National Register Nominations: The "Beverly" nomination is going next week to the state commission reviewer. All of the Appalachian Trail is being proposed for the National Register. We will review the nomination.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault reported on the Jefferson County GeoHistory Project. Bill will give a lecture about it Feb. 9 at Shepherd University. The goal is to see how Shepherd will participate. Bill has had two meetings with American Public University and two with the Harpers Ferry Park. They are trying to set up four work centers. He also met with the Harpers Ferry Historical Association and the Charles Town HLC. Next week he will meet with the Harpers Ferry HLC. Fran Phillips, who is on the board of Historic Shepherdstown, will arrange a meeting for Bill with them. Don Amoroso moved that we set up an advisory subcommittee on the GeoHistory Project that is sponsored and overseen by the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission. Don's motion was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed. This formalizes the relationship between the HLC and the GeoHistory Project.

Website: Martin Burke reported that there are constant improvements being made to the HLC website, and that there will be more by the end of the month.

Upcoming Events, Misc. : Martin said there is nothing new to report on PATH.