

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

May 19, 2010

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

Minutes: Minutes for the April meeting taken by John Allen in the absence of Secretary Michael Musick were previously circulated to commission members via e-mail and approved electronically.

Treasurer's Report: Don Amoroso distributed handouts detailing our account balances, income, expenses, and projected balances, and summarizing our financial situation. Since our last meeting we have spent \$4,400 on restoring the Poor House, \$159.42 on utilities, and \$4.06 on a legal notice. We have received \$2,000 from The Arts and Humanities Alliance for our GIS project, and \$70 from the bread bakers. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer. Following some discussion between Don and Martin Burke the motion was passed.

Poor Farm: Martin Burke reported that the work day at the farm was very successful. We got help from the county. Community service high school students provided most of the labor and three dumpsters were filled. One dumpster was donated for recycled materials. One intern was there. John Allen reported that the contractor completed corner masonry work. We have two prices for work: on the first project, \$3,575 for the East wall; on the second project, \$4,900 for the long double porch. The total is around \$8,500. Don Amoroso asked if we still need money for surveys: we will leave in \$6,000 for this purpose. Bill Theriault called attention to asbestos covering some pipes, and there was discussion of possible ways to deal with this. At the least a sign indicating the presence of asbestos can be put up. John Allen will send thanks to those involved in the cleanup.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke reported on the cleanup of the farm. Lawnmowers and trailers have been removed. There is still a pile of wood to be removed. There is an issue with the electrical outlet near the oven. Bill Theriault noted that the circuit breaker needs to be replaced. There is one more trailer belonging to Irvan Groff. Volunteer Andrea Changuris was mentioned. John Allen distributed a synopsis of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessment, listing areas to prioritize. Bill Theriault commended the assessment, and John Allen explained it. Carmen Creamer spoke about her church's ramp for the disabled. Bill Theriault explained that his group has been meeting over a period of six months on the Master Plan. It is time to reassess what the mission is, and Bill urged the HLC to do so. He will e-mail his copy, with handwritten notes, to John Allen, and Allen will type and distribute it. Irvan Groff reported for the Friends of Peter Burr. He can no longer mow, due to arthritis, cataracts, and hearing loss. Regarding after school programs, Maggie Keeler will need radiation treatments, so these are in doubt. Manuals for the tractor and mower were discussed. Irvan will be available to explain how the equipment works. He will do bush-hogging. Don Amoroso asked about Harvest Faire

plans. Bill Berry urged that planning for the Faire be started now. John Allen and Irvan Groff discussed further cleanup plans. Bill Berry then continued his report, noting that a visit today by Lowery first graders was cancelled because of rain; they will come Friday. He is having trouble getting people to cover this year's school program. Living History will have to recruit *young* people. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that she had two workshops at the house on Saturday, for which there were a total of 48 people. The parents displayed great enthusiasm. She has the IRS 501c letter. Don Amoroso noted that we don't now have enough money for ADA compliance. Use of whitewash was discussed.

Volunteer Heather McSharry: She is doing an outstanding job in the 911 office. She is cataloging our files and will give us a spreadsheet on them. Martin Burke noted that we just received the Civil War Battlefield Protection maps. These are in the 911 office.

National Register Nominations: Erin Riebe of SHPO is working on the Bullskin nomination.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault reported on the Jefferson County GeoHistory Project. The project received a check from the Harpers Ferry Historical Association for \$3,500. American Public University will provide a server without cost. The project now has two GIS specialists. Shepherd University people will be writing a grant proposal for it, with a maximum grant of \$20,000. Bill will be handling the Explorer material.

Website: Martin Burke reported that everything is up-to-date as of today. He hopes to get statistics on how many people are visiting the site.

Storage: We hope to get our files out of the basement of the library soon.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: John Allen noted that September 18 is Charles Town Heritage Day. Don Amoroso said that he hopes to receive suggestions and corrections on proposed future expenses. He asked that people tell him what they think.

Viewshed Survey: John Allen rolled out four large color-coded survey maps for those present to examine. These showed in detail the dramatic visual impact of the proposed PATH.