

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

July 21, 2010

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Keith Alexander, Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Heather McSharry, Frances Morgan, Bill Theriault.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the June 15, 2010 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 \$21,783.15 in our bank account. There are still many blanks in our projected expenses. Our income from the hotel/motel tax is a projection, and will come monthly. There was discussion of this between John Allen, Carmen Creamer, Martin Burke, and Don Amoroso. Frances Morgan noted that half the tax must go to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The county commission has some discretion. She will fight to keep our percentage. There was discussion of what we owe now. The only thing committed to is \$460 for an asbestos survey. We will keep expenditures to an absolute bare minimum until we know how much we are getting. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed.

**Civil War Markers:** Michael Musick reported on our submission of draft text and illustrations for three markers (Cameron's Depot/Locust Hill engagement; Greenback Raid near Bardane; and the Rutherford House in Charles Town) to the Civil War Trails program, thanking Don Amoroso for his work on this. The CVB is overseeing the county's submissions, and making other submissions. Although the CVB has asked us for financial sponsorship of additional markers, the consensus was to only pay for our three current submissions, at least for now. There was discussion of the marker program.

**Volunteer - Heather McSharry:** Heather, a student intern at Shepherd University under adviser Keith Alexander, reported on her work for the HLC. She has put three Jefferson County historical maps in GIS format, and displayed the maps. There was discussion of these. Handouts on data layers were distributed, and Heather's work on Peter Burr Farm sources detailed. She has inventoried the HLC files, creating more than 2,200 entries, and made a cost estimate for archival storage materials. She is running out of time to finish this project, but will do her best. The need for more records storage space was discussed. Summing up, she especially liked the GIS skills she learned. Keith Alexander said that this is the sort of project he was looking for for students. Heather is also exploring the use of solar panels, etc., on historic structures in Shepherdstown. John Allen thanked Heather and Keith Alexander for their work; Heather thanked Martin Burke for his help.

**Viewshed Survey:** A new set of maps is being generated by our consultants on the Route 340 corridor. We are checking the maps against the actual sites. Maps that are easier to understand are being considered. Frances Morgan noted that on Monday the National

Park Service held a hearing on the environmental impact of PATH. Martin Burke was there. A county commissioner has objected to PATH in the county.

**Poor Farm:** John Allen and Martin Burke met with Kirk Davis on the 23rd. The foundation is structurally sound. Kirk was optimistic about its possible use as offices, and will speak to the county commissioners about the roof. John Allen has gotten three estimates for this work. Martin Burke has hired someone for \$450 to assess an area for asbestos. The estimate is \$3,375 to get rid of asbestos in the basement and backyard. Carmen Creamer spoke on archaeological aspects of the site, suggesting monitor archaeology rather than digging, due to asbestos danger. We will hold off on asbestos abatement until we learn what our financial situation will be. We agree to having John Allen make a presentation to the county commission for half the roof cost. Carmen Creamer pointed out the popularity of reuse and recycling, its success with the jail, and the appropriateness of the state paying for half the roof. Martin Burke said we will hold off on hiring the asbestos contractor until we know we have the money for him.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Martin Burke has been working on cleanup, and reported on it. He asked approval to spend \$200 for one more cleanup visit, which was given. There was discussion of the disposition of an old mowing machine, tractor, and wagon. John Allen said David Gibney has explained the structural problems with the house, and Gibney has a good solution. This is a good time to put in new windows. Martin Burke will send the commissioners an electronic version of the old master plan. Bill Berry commented on the ill health of Maggie Keeler and Irvan Groff. A meeting is needed to decide on incorporation of the Friends of Peter Burr. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, thanked Martin Burke for his work. There was discussion of donated materials, including looms, and of use of the downstairs of the barn. There will be a presentation at the fair. October 10-16 is Homecoming. Harvest Faire is October 16. Don Amoroso stated that we have \$600 for festivals. Martin Burke said dealing with the bridge, which is falling apart, would help with ADA requirements. There was consensus that the bridge should go. Joyce Cole has a volunteer who wants to work and cut grass. If the RAI estimate for this is high, he will do it for less. He also offers to prune trees.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Data:** Bill Theriault reported that work is continuing with a grant from the Shepherd University Humanities Council. The HLC is asked to send a letter or e-mail saying that if a contract is awarded, HLC will contribute \$4,500. If there is no grant, the money will be spent elsewhere. Another grant is coming in. Work on the project is continuing. The goal is to build infrastructure for the project. A website is up, but not for public use. At some point there should be coordination between Shepherd and the HLC.

**Cement Mill Property:** Martin Burke reported that there is federal money available. There will be a vote tomorrow night. Martin has already provided a description of what is to be done in an e-mail to the HLC commissioners. There was discussion, during which it was stated that it was not clear whether legislative action would be required. John Allen has been contacted by the Archaeological Conservancy, which would take the property. The Superintendent of the Antietam National Battlefield wants his staff to interpret the

site immediately.

**Website:** Martin Burke reported that a statistical program has been added to show use. There were 651 unique visitors last month. We have a breakdown of what they look at. The cost is about \$4 per month. Various features have been added. GeoHistory is the most popular. Photos are the next big area to be added.

**Long Range Plan:** Martin Burke distributed a handout on this, and explained it. John Allen suggested that we take this home, read it, and contact Martin with comments. We will vote on it at the next meeting.

**Reviews:** John Allen sent a letter June 22 on the Shepherdstown water tower. Don Amoroso thinks the tower will go where the existing tower is. We received a proposal for construction of the Hospice of the Panhandle. John Allen explained the site. He sees no problem with it. Carmen Creamer noted that there is nothing especially important there. Allen will write to them indicating our approval.

**Upcoming Events, Misc. :** There will be a C & O Canal Symposium at Shepherd University Saturday, 1:00-5:00 p.m., July 24.