

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

April 20, 2011

**Members Present:** John Allen, Martin Burke, Michael Musick. Guests: Joyce Cole, Bill Theriault.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the March 16, 2011 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by John Allen, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Don Amoroso was not able to attend today's meeting due to a recent heart operation. John Allen passed on to those present information on our finances, including a statement that our operating balance is \$12, 436.84. Don says he should be able to make our next meeting in May. Martin Burke reported that our tractor will soon be disposed of (he has an offer to buy it). Martin has a bill for Peter Burr Farm kitchen equipment, which will be paid for by the bread bakers, plus one for fencing. The bakers will also pay for care of the archaeological collection. He has requested donations from Southern States and Home Depot. John Allen says that we will have to spend \$3,000 for the audit. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Martin Burke and passed.

**Insurance:** There is nothing to report on this.

**GeoHistory Project:** Bill Theriault reported that GIS is up on the website, including maps *ca.* 1730-1880. The search interface just got working and will be up in a week or two. Bill met with Christy Conrad, a Shepherd student who will work on cataloging photos, and gave a further description of what will go up. Peter Burr Farm information will show chain of title. 12,000 images will go up as cataloged. The project advisory committee will meet next Wednesday at the Byrd Center or Shepherd library. Martin Burke inquired about requirements under the West Virginia Humanities Grant. Bill explained where the grant documents can be found online.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Martin Burke has nothing to report on the master plan. He forwarded a plan from the Master Gardeners. He has all the files created by Virginia Provenzano, going back to 1999. We need someone who knows how to trim grapevines. The fence around the kitchen garden will be finished soon. They are working on the back fence (four feet, with barbed wire). The first delivery of benches and tables from the Job Corps has taken place. Joyce Cole asked if it was necessary to wait until May to put things in the springhouse and Martin replied "no." There will be string lighting for the barn. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that the Harvest Faire will be October 8. Workshop dates will be named. Craftworks will do a "Taste of Two Rivers" dinner, which has fundraising potential (see Joyce's handouts). Joyce is transitioning out of the chairman's role, and wants committees to take leadership roles (see her list of dates and activities and description). Martin Burke asked who to call for emergencies. Joyce will put this and activities information on the website. Martin Burke said that the gardeners want to do educational activities, and described what will be done at the farm. John Allen asked

what else needs to be done to get ready for the schools. Martin said we need to prepare doors. He would like to see us add trees. The West Virginia Conservation Association might provide plants.

**Cement Mill Purchase:** John Allen noted the recent newspaper article, which discussed the County Commission's pending vote on the sale. Martin Burke said that the County Commission wants him (Martin) to appear before them. He should know something by May 12. He has been talking to various persons on the subject, and doesn't know whether it will go forward. Various components are up in the air.

**Site Review:** The Route 340 cell tower balloon test will be April 21. John Allen received a letter from consultants Greenhorne & O'Mara for Highland Farm. They want comment on the Highland Farm Concept Plan by May 24. This is a 270 acre tract on the Shenandoah River. The few historic structures there are category 3 and 4 resources. There are 25 house lots. He explained the location, etc., and showed the members a map. John Allen said he found the SHPO report on the wastewater treatment plant there from 2005. This said it would have no effect, but they had archaeological concerns. Possible SHPO input was discussed. We concluded to refer this to SHPO and wait to hear from them.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** Martin Burke sent in an update April 1 to our website designer. John Allen noted that Todd Fagan at GIS asked if we are okay with having our information in the packet bought by engineering consultants. We are. Martin Burke spoke about adding a battlefield layer to the packet. Michael Musick noted his attendance at the ceremony at the CVB site in Harpers Ferry for putting up Civil War Trails Markers. John Allen spoke about the Frank Buckles memorial statue. Tomorrow Martin Burke will interview Jamie Stoner, another Shepherd student. We now have a Peter Burr Farm bird list. The farm cleanup continues.