

Minutes
Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
February 19, 2014

Members Present: Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Steve Alemar, Sara Lambert, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 15, 2014 meeting were distributed. Acceptance was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Martin Burke, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Carmen Creamer presented the treasurer's report, with updated handouts distributed. We received \$100 from the Potomac Valley Audubon Society, who will hold a summer camp at the Peter Burr Farm July 2014. This fee covers expenses for water, sewer, and electricity. Our utility bills are high, which can be pointed out to those using the PBF.

As of January 15, 2014, we have \$9,272.94 in our operating account.

There was discussion of a check written in September 2013 that may not have been cashed. Martin Burke will call their treasurer. We received the bill for the asbestos inspection on the Lowe property at the Cement Mill. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Michael Musick, seconded by Martin Burke, and passed.

WV GeoExplorer Project: Bill Theriault reported on his extensive cataloguing of photos and data. Some structures located on the 1975 Windshield survey no longer in existence, but are documented. We now have some 12,000 photos online. Burke has asked *The Spirit of Jefferson* about digitizing the back issues of newspaper and now waiting for signed permission. Bill is working on Women's Land Army material.

JCHLC Properties Update:

Nothing is going on at Peter Burr Farm until April.

Jefferson County Courthouse: At the request of the JC Commission on recommendations for the renovation of the JC Courthouse, a concrete color chart, from Prism Pigments, was passed around and discussed. The Landmarks Commission selected a beige color, Wheat Light, for the concrete color. Samples of the actual material will be provided to us before construction. Burke will put in writing that we would like something lighter than Wheat Light.

On the Shepherdstown Cement Mill, the National Park Service has yet to issue the special resource study; Potomac Mills (aka Shepherdstown Cement Mill) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, February 5, 2014. The SBPA is waiting for the spring thaw to install a required sign. No date has yet been selected for the spring cleanup day. We are waiting for one more estimate for demolition of the Lowe house.

Other Issues, Plans, and Projects:

A. Should we join the National Trust for Historic Preservation Forum, which would cost \$250 annually? Joining would give us access to their grant program. Carmen Creamer believes the county commission should pay for this. She moved that we join the National Trust Forum, which was seconded by Musick and passed.

B. Should we take on, as a project for this year, advocating the expansion of the WV Code's definition of historic structures for tax credit purposes? At present a property must be on the

National Register or in a National Register District (Maryland allows county landmarks). The question of barns preservation precipitated the issue. Discussion followed. We agreed in favor of advocacy. Burke will gather more information before speak to the local WV delegates.

C. We will be revising our Memorandum of Understanding with Shepherd University (2010), The Historic Preservation program is now under the History Department. Revised agreement will include the WV GeoExplorer Project.

D. Middleway Conservancy was successful in obtaining its BAD Buildings Grant, which we supported by letter. There was discussion of whether we should encourage them to be more active (they have few volunteers). Burke suggested we assign someone from the JCHLC to participate. Carmen Creamer volunteered to coordinate.

E. Feagan's Mill was listed February 12 as one of WV's most endangered properties by PAWV. Creamer will nominate the mill as a county landmark in 2014.

F. Do we want to spend \$1,000 to hire Paula Reed to put together the National Register nomination of Packhorse Ford and shepherd it through the Maryland NR process? Creamer noted that Native American information for Maryland needs to be added. Burke moved that we obligate an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for this National Register nomination, which was seconded by Creamer and passed. She prefers that this be paid in two installments. Steve Alemar will contact the board of Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association to see if they can provide money for the Packhorse Ford nomination.

G. Venues for future JCHLC meetings were discussed, including the Burr Farm in the summer. No conclusion was reached.

H. Additional revenue ideas were discussed. Ideas for county historical programs were considered. Creamer suggested we talk about these with Doug Perks.

I. Burke is getting estimates from Doug Reed for a Jefferson County Barns Survey. We can make this information available on our website. There was discussion of the kinds of information to be gotten, and how to do it. We might do the top 50, but not all.

Burke moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Musick and passed at 8:32.