

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

April 16, 2008

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.  
Guests: William Theriault, Walter Washington, Maggie Keeler, Irvan Groff; cell phone tower advocates Stephanie Petway (attorney for Verizon) and Sarah Farley

### **Presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission**

#### **Awards:**

Awards (certificates and books) were presented by John Allen as follows: Volunteer Awards to Ed Dunleavy (Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association); Irvan Groff (Peter Burr Living History Farm); and George C. Rutherford (Jefferson County Black History Preservation Story); Landmark Preservation Awards to American Public University (Buildings in downtown Charles Town); Curt Mason and Suzette Kimball (White House Farm); and Oscar & Janet Stine (Elmwood Farm); Theriault Awards - for Historians to Betty Lowe (Genealogist, author *Folks of Swan Pond*); James L. Taylor (Author, Founder Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society); and Don Wood (Berkeley County Historical Society).

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously

**CIS:** Proposals for cell towers at Middleway Pike (Route 51), Washington High School, and Ranson were discussed. It was determined that this commission lacks jurisdiction over the second two. Verizon attorney Stephanie Petway made a presentation on the Middleway Pike proposal. Sarah Farley commented on tests done with balloons on lines of sight, etc. Concern was expressed by John Allen and Carmen Creamer on visibility, and location of the tower in the middle of an August 1864 battle site, which was responded to by Stephanie Petway, with comment by Walter Washington. Sarah Farley and Carmen Creamer discussed archaeological investigations. John Allen, Don Amoroso, and Stephanie Petway discussed visibility, height, impact on the battlefield, etc.; Michael Musick voiced his concern for the battlefield. John Allen summarized that the commission finds this proposal unacceptable, and that a letter to this effect will be drafted.

**Charles Town Judicial Center:** An architectural rendering of this structure was displayed, with the comment that it may or may not be constructed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. John Allen reported that we do not need to do an audit. Don Amoroso reported that the only possible problem with the John Doyle grant would be if the governor vetoed it by line item, which will not happen. Carmen Creamer moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed unanimously.

**New Landmarks:** Don Amoroso reported on the Civil War sign program.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Walter Washington presented a festival folder with a form that needs to be filled out. John Allen noted that the budget has been cut in half, which was followed by extended discussion of how to spend what remains. Preference was given to spending on historic fabric. Carmen Creamer moved that \$8,800 be shifted to the Burr and Poorhouse budget, which was seconded by Don Amoroso and passed unanimously. Maggie Keeler talked about Garden Open Day, to demonstrate 18<sup>th</sup> century garden techniques and heirloom vegetables, with a plant sale. The date June 14 was settled on, to be announced in *Washington Gardener* magazine. October 15-17 Burr descendants will visit. Irvan Groff and others discussed expenses for hinges, and declared that such work will be done right. William Theriault stated that the Burr Friends need a budget quickly; that there will be less baking done May 17 than previously; and that the Lincoln Log Cabin built by Harpers Ferry Junior High School students is almost done. He remarked that the students have already spent around \$600, and hoped they would get some reimbursement.

**Survey:** William Theriault distributed handouts summarizing a historic structures survey, together with recommendations and observations. He offered to consolidate all previous surveys, which offer was accepted.

**National Register:** John Allen reported that the Bullskin District will be on the May Archives and History schedule.

**Rules:** John Allen noted that the rules need to be retyped to include recent changes. William Theriault volunteered to do it.

**Upcoming Events:** The following were announced by John Allen: Doctor Chase, a George Washington scholar, will lecture at 2 p.m. April 19 at Shepherd University; SHPO National Register evaluations will be May 15, with an event to follow (John Allen will be taking this lady around); there will be an Archives and History meeting in Shepherdstown May 16; there will be a Landmarks Commission Conference in Shepherdstown May 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact person is Amy Boyd, 896-2398.