

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

August 20, 2008

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Michael Musick, Kip Stowell. Guests: Irvan Groff, Tom Hall, Maggie Keeler, Bill Theriault, Walter Washington

Minutes: The minutes of the July 16, 2008 meeting were distributed. Don Amoroso moved their acceptance, which was seconded by Kip Stowell and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. We received \$30,070 from the county commission, and have a projected cash balance of \$32,331.18. We also received \$8,000 from Culture and History for fairs and festivals.

There was discussion on expenditures for fairs and festivals, focused on the events at the Peter Burr Farm, and what is needed to prepare the property for such use. John Allen reported an estimate from Bart Wheatley of \$4,900 for window and door restoration to finish the Spring House at the farm. Kip Stowell noted a need for improved signage, and the safety hazard presented by the kitchen porch. John Allen pointed out that Bart Wheatley has asked that a subcontractor pick up extensive bird droppings in the building at the farm. Don Amoroso moved that \$4,900 be expended on the Spring House, which was seconded by Kip Stowell and passed.

Michael Musick moved that the treasurer's report be approved, which was seconded by Don Amoroso and passed.

Peter Burr Farm: Maggie Keeler reported on activities of the Friends of Peter Burr Farm, including a successful tomato tasting Aug. 16, and plans for the Burr Homecoming and reunion Oct. 17-19. There will be a basket class Sept. 13. John Allen noted that WVPB, at his suggestion, will film bread baking at the Peter Burr Farm as part of its "New Mountain Living." Bill Theriault declared that the book *Artisan Bread Baking for Living History* is finished, and that it will be published by the Washington County (MD) Rural Heritage Museum, selling for \$16.

Poor Farm: Walter Washington has been in negotiations with Rock Spring Church and the Solid Waste Authority to resolve ownership issues. They will give us all the land, and we will keep a part of it. Walter Washington, who arrived shortly after our initial comments on the subject, noted that the WV attorney general's office will be involved. 1.7 acres will go to HLC, then we will give the church part of it. An engineer will need to do a plat. Don Amoroso noted we will be responsible for the whole place, and Bill Theriault urged that adaptive re-use be considered. Walter Washington recommended an agreement with the county regarding maintenance of the chapel. John Allen thanked him for his work.

Website: John Allen wrote to request transfer of the domain name to the HLC; he

thanked Tom Hall for his contribution on this matter.

National Register: John Allen reported that the Bullskin NR District is going forward. Tom Hall described the situation with the Hillary House on George Street in Charles Town. The county commission - and thus the HLC - may have a role. There is a need for more title work.

New Landmarks - Rocky Marsh Area: At the October meeting Rock Spring Farm (McQuilken Farm), the Fulk House, the Kearney-Shade House, and the Ordorff-McQuilken House will be considered. John Allen will try to contact the owners. There will be a drive-around to the properties Oct. 15.

HLC Office Space/Storage: Tom Hall reported that he doesn't know what the county has worked out on space. He noted other groups that want space. Our files will be part of the Planning Commission space. John Allen thanked Tom Hall for his work on this subject.

Historic Resources Map and Database: Michael Musick moved that we approve the latest 2008 version of the map and database, which was seconded by Kip Stowell and passed.

There was further discussion of the Peter Burr property. The potential health hazard of a trench that needs to be cleaned out and access were touched on. Bill Theriault noted that the area from the house to Warm Springs Rd. is a Development Authority responsibility.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: John Allen reported that PATH Transmission Lines - Allegheny Power has requested information from us, which has been supplied. They have devised new routes. One route intrudes little on Jefferson Co., but another route raises concerns about the negative impact it would have on historic resources. Tom Hall described this second route, which would go through 3 or 4 National Register farms. Concern was expressed about the height of the towers. Approval was given John Allen to write a letter on the subject.

John Allen showed the Wild Goose CIS, which is online. We have requests for comment on two more cell tower proposals. One on Bloomery Rd. has no historic structure impact. The other is the Flowing Springs - Sleepy Hollow "silo" which is across from Beall Aire Farm near the clubhouse of the golf course. John Allen will look at this site and report on it at our next meeting. Peter Burr Farm volunteers can now go to the <www.volunteerwv.org> site. John Allen has information on Two Rivers Giving Circle micro-grants for safeguarding habitat, etc. There will be a tour of Washington homes on Sept. 20, with tickets available through the newspaper. Don Amoroso moved that we approve spending \$360 to buy microfilm of Jefferson County Deedbooks, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. October 11 is the Harvest Fair at Peter Burr Farm, and we approve using money from the \$8,000 Fairs & Festivals grant to facilitate use of the Peter Burr property (work on windows, doors, and birdhouse) for fair activity at an early date.

