

## **Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission**

**February 15, 2012**

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Grady Allen, Frances Morgan, Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting were distributed. Acceptance was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by John Allen, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Since our last meeting we have received \$7,600 from Culture and History and a refund of \$324 from the Risk Pool. Amoroso's handouts were reviewed. We have around \$21,000 in our operating account. Amoroso has been HLC treasurer for 12 years, and will be stepping down at the next meeting. County Commissioner Frances Morgan thanked him for his service, which will be celebrated March 3 at John Allen's home. Acceptance of the treasurer's report was moved by Michael Musick, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed.

**Site Reviews:** We had planned to have a site review for an addition to a house in Middleway, but the county decided that the HLC did not need to do such a review (this was vague in the ordinance). Carmen Creamer said she knows the house, and voiced her views, which were then discussed. Frances Morgan suggested perhaps sending a letter that states that this case does not represent a precedent. John Allen noted that this is the first time this has come up. He will draft a letter that will be passed around. Creamer pointed out that the house is in a historic district.

**Cement Mill:** John Allen reported that today he, Martin Burke, and volunteers from the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association (around ten people) were at the site today, and cleared much brush, etc. It is now easy to walk around, and there is a lock on the gate. We still need to determine what we will call it. Amoroso likes "The Battlefield." If the land goes to the Antietam National Battlefield, it will be considered a battlefield; if it goes to the Harpers Ferry park it is more likely to be recognized as an industrial site. More was spent on the cleanup than expected (see Burke's message and handout). There will be two pairs of meetings conducted by the National Park Service on the future of the site, one at Mather Training Center in Harpers Ferry February 22, 4-7 p.m., the other at the Clarion in Shepherdstown February 25 from 10-2. Michael Musick will attend one at Mather. Fran Phillips suggested a contest for a name. Allen pointed out that the name would have to accord with that on the National Register nomination. We should brainstorm a short list. This was followed by discussion. Creamer suggested asking the NPS. Later in the meeting, after reporting on the Peter Burr Farm, Allen stated that he has a proposal from Paula Reed regarding a National Register nomination for the Cement Mill. He said it would be good to have the buildings documented. Musick moved that we spend \$500 to have Paula Reed document the structures, which was seconded by Creamer and passed.

**GeoHistory Project:** Bill Theriault reported that he was getting ready for the March 10 colloquium at American Public University in Charles Town. The general topic will be cooperative projects current and future. There will be panel discussions and questions from the audience. Images of newspapers are on the website, but the NPS asked for their removal, which

Theriault explained. The work continues. Martin Burke will represent the HLC at the colloquium.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Allen reported that two silver maples were cut down (see Burke's handout). We will not be spending \$600 to grind stumps. Creamer moved that we spend \$3,500 to move ahead on three projects listed by Burke (#6): barn lighting, trash removal from the wetlands, and signage. This was seconded by Musick and passed.

**Mapping Overlays:** Allen has a map by Amanda Whitmore showing Farmland Protection Lands and Historic Resources, which was displayed and explained. It can be used as a guide for evaluating properties with both prime soils and historic resources. Morgan commented on water resources, which Allen said are a part of this. We will need to meet with Farmland Protection on the map. It needs to be tweaked. Various options were discussed.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** There is nothing new on the website. A new HLC member will be appointed, who will probably be Eric Jenkins, a teacher. We will have an election of officers at next month's meeting. The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will hold a conference in Jefferson County September 27-29. Allen said the HLC should participate. Creamer asked about the CVS project in Charles Town. Allen said there was a plausible commitment from SHPO that they will do a 106 on it. This was followed by discussion. Allen noted that we received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce remonstrating against our not renewing our membership, which would cost \$50. We will wait to deal with this after the new commissioner is appointed.