

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

January 18, 2012

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 16, 2011 meeting were distributed (there was no meeting in December). Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. There is \$12, 809.26 in the operating account. Utilities costs have gone up. John Allen inquired about \$5,000 which was left over from the Cement Mill purchase. Burke said it is in Walter Washington's account and in escrow. Burke has been trying to reach the Civil War Trust to find out if the HLC can retain these funds. Amoroso continued, noting that a survey of the Cement Mill property is needed. We have a plat that was never recorded, and will hire a surveyor. There are two encroachments. Burke will let us know about the money. Otherwise, we have \$6, 504.37 from the hotel/motel tax and \$50 from the DAR. Burke asked if we are still expecting Fairs and Festivals money. Amoroso said we are.

Site Reviews: Allen has sent a letter regarding the Shepherd University Pedestrian Underpass giving our views to the RPK Group. Regarding the proposed Trough Road cell tower, Allen was present at a balloon test. The location looms over four historic houses, and is otherwise inadvisable. The HLC commissioners agreed via e-mail to send a letter stating our objections, which Allen has sent. On the proposed cell silo at Paynes Ford, we have requested that the height be reduced 20 feet, and Allen has sent a letter to that effect.

Cement Mill Purchase: Burke reported that he now has a deed, and the property belongs to the HLC. Closing was December 20. Money was received from Governor Tomblin through state representative John Doyle. We have met all requirements for state grants. Since there are no habitable buildings on the site there is no additional insurance cost. The next step is to give the property to the National Park Service. Burke has been in contact with the Chief of Land for the National Capital Region. There has been talk of initiating a National Register nomination, and Paula Reed has a proposal. This was followed by discussion of the National Register nomination and earlier documentation on the nomination.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault is putting together his final report. He has material generated by Shepherd University students to put in a database, especially on Virginus Island. There is much from local newspapers, and Theriault has digitized whole runs of local papers. He is working with the Harpers Ferry park. The upcoming American Public University colloquium was described. The GeoHistory project is one of four topics to be discussed March 12.

Planning Department: Allen has sent out to the commissioners the response from Planning and Zoning to his inquiry.

Peter Burr Farm: Burke reported things quiet there. There is some problem with the security system electronics giving false alarms. He distributed a handout on "2112 Renovation and Improvements, Peter Burr Farm, Snow Hill, Cement Mill." These are possible things to do. Allen remarked that there are no big ticket items. Carmen Creamer moved that we approve a \$800 expenditure to remove two trees at the Peter Burr Farm, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. There was a discussion of Reliving History, what their longterm commitment is, and what we can do for Fairs and Festivals. School events will be moved from spring to fall. Burke is meeting with County Parks and Recreation regarding their taking over non-building maintenance. Creamer noted the problem of getting mowing done when it's needed. There was discussion of identifying wetlands and invasive species.

Mapping Overlays: The map being prepared by Americorps volunteer Amanda Whitmore for the Preservation Alliance of WV is nearly complete. We will mark-up her rough draft. We wrote a letter of support for the Civil War Trust grant application to SHPO concerning the sites of battles at Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, and elsewhere.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: Allen reported that the county commission has asked us to submit quarterly reports. He distributed a handout with our report. Allen noted that Don Amoroso will be retiring as our treasurer, after many years of distinguished service. At our March meeting we will have an election for the HLC officers. There will be an event to celebrate Don Amoroso's lengthy service on this commission. The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will hold a conference in Jefferson County, possibly at Claymont, September 27-29, and we should participate. Theriault called attention to the lack of mention on the Friends of Shannondale Springs website of the contribution of the HLC to the restoration of the bathhouse in the early 1990s. This was followed by discussion until the meeting adjourned.