



Meeting Minutes
Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
7pm – County Commission Room, Charles Town Library
Charles Town, WV
August 8, 2018

Commission members present: Martin Burke (chair), Leigh Koonce (secretary), Jack Hefestay (treasurer), Ben Horter
Guests: Peter Onoszko, Bill Theriault, John Demer, Lauren Kelly

Burke called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Burke noted that former commissioner Sara Lambert & her family have moved to Texas. She will be missed.

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Approval of Minutes from June meeting – Submitted by Leigh Koonce & Lauren Kelly

Hefestay moved to approve the June meeting minutes, Horter seconded, and passed.

III. Treasurer’s Report– Hefestay

Hefestay noted that there is \$19,183.42 in the account. The commission has been notified by Michelle Gordon, JC Finance Director, that they will have to get a single audit for FY-18 because of the grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program for the Old Standard easement. The landmarks commission will be tagging onto the county commission audit for FY-17 and FY-18 rather than filing individually. The landmarks commission is still waiting for the return of the FY-16 audit. Hefestay has created a new spreadsheet to manage the account, and the JCHLC will save money by not having to pay bookkeeping expenses.

Horter motioned to approve the treasurer’s report, Burke seconded, and passed.

IV. FY-19 Budget – Discussion/action

The budget was discussed at the last meeting. The landmarks commission will be receiving the Fairs & Festivals grant this year from the Arts & Humanities Council. Funds usually arrive in September and will be spent on Peter Burr Farm. The JCHLC has about \$50,000 to spend with the carryover for FY-18 but has some large expenses. The demolition of the Eyler house will cost \$12,000. At the January 2019 meeting, the commission will go over the budget again to review expenditures.

Hefestay motioned to approve the proposed budget, Horter seconded, and passed.

V. MOU with JC Parks and Rec. and Blue Ridge Festival – Discussion/action

Peter Burr Farm is an underutilized site, so the landmarks commission entered a memorandum of understanding with JC Parks & Rec. They held two events in FY-18: a wedding and the Blue Ridge Arts and Crafts Festival. They want to renew, but they want the landmarks commission to pay for mowing the grass. Koonce pointed out that they have the commission's \$1,500 listed as a donation rather than a payment for service. Parks & Rec would receive any proceeds from renting out the farm. Burke pointed out that they've done a great job with the mowing and the grounds always look good. Onoszko would like to know if the donation is a fee for the mowing or a donation. Koonce said the new MOU needs to be rewritten as it is inconsistent and awkwardly worded. Theriault pointed out that it's unclear whether \$1,500 covers the total mowing cost. The MOU will be rewritten and voted on at the September meeting.

VI. Announcements and Reports

A. Status of the WV GeoExplorer Project – Theriault

Theriault thanked the JCHLC for their allotted contribution. The GeoExplorer will use Web 3.0, the Semantic Web, which promises to allow sophisticated analyses not possible in conventional databases. Traditional databases work with tables and limit what the user can do with information. Web 3.0 will allow more connections with information. Web 3.0 can infer information based on the information the user gives it. The new GeoExplorer will allow the user to ask questions rather than just search for information. Theriault would like to have a September debut, but things need to be changed to make it look the way he wants. Burke says the JCHLC received an invoice, which was paid, from the programmer for \$1,500. Theriault says there should be another invoice on the way for \$4,000.

B. JC Courthouse Committee – Koonce

Jacki Shadle and Koonce have both been occupied with family situations, so the committee has not met. The doors have been painted, and Bill Polk will be sending a list of repairs that have been done. The gates are tied back with rope, and Koonce will ask if the rope is necessary. He will also ask about the when the interior storms will be placed and whether Bill Polk's pigeon traps are working.

C. Status of Snow Hill/Poor Farm Easement – Burke

Snow Hill's easement is on review at Walter Washington's office as of July 24. It will hopefully be finalized before the next meeting. Once the easement is in place, the commission will start looking for a new owner.

D. Status of Rte. 340 Project – Horter

Horter hasn't heard back from the contacts sent from Burke. He has also heard nothing back from the highway department. Burke pointed out that property acquisition is supposed to start this fall. Onoszko attended a meeting held by Region 5 of the Division of Highways and learned that their priorities change from month to month, so the dates for the 340 expansion are not reliable.

E. Status of grant requests and interpretative projects – Kelly

The lecture fundraiser with the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society for Duffields Depot raised almost \$1,000. They would like to continue to work with the landmarks commission in the future. The commission is still waiting to hear back from CSX about a grant request submitted in January. Kelly also applied for a grant with the National Trust for Historic

Preservation to fund a topographical survey at Duffields. Horter noted that there are some new railroad grants because of the anniversary of the golden spike and the transcontinental railroad, but he was not certain B&O depots would be eligible. Kelly is also working on moving Rob Aitcheson's Civil War driving tours to a smaller, less expensive format. She is also working on new brochures for the Beeline March and the Morgan's Grove Historic District.

F. Status of NR nomination – *The Rocks* – Kelly

Kelly is still working on the nomination and will stay in touch with Jeff Smith at the WVSHPO from Texas.

G. Status of JC Courthouse becoming a NHL – Kelly

Kelly has not heard from Kathryn Smith at the NHL office since the beginning of July. She said to expect a response in 4-6 weeks and that she is hoping to give the commission some good direction as it pursues the nomination. Kelly expects to hear from her soon.

H. Status of Eyler house demolition – Burke

This project is now in the contractor's hands. The contractor says he can get his equipment up the drive, but River Road keeps flooding.

I. Report on BZA appeal – Burke

The JCHLC voted to appeal the zoning administrator's decision that section 4.4C of the zoning ordinance was ambiguous and did not apply to the planned development at Belvedere Farm. The BZA meeting was Thursday, June 28. Jarred Adams was hired to be the JCHLC's attorney. Most of the attorneys Burke interviewed had a conflict of interest and were associated with either the developer or the lender. Adams filed the motion. The zoning administrator's statement could have been read to apply to all National Register structures, but during the meeting she said that this decision did not apply to all National Register sites. The JCHLC lost the appeal and at this point cannot go to the circuit court.

J. Status of PBF Arboretum & Garden Plan – Burke

Burke met with Amanda Harmon, who is still working at Peter Burr Farm, and is meeting with landscape architect Nikki Sabado next week. They will not be presenting to the project to the landmarks commission until September or October.

K. Selection of new part-time AmeriCorps member – Burke

Meaghan Papeika will be taking over as the AmeriCorps member with the JCHLC. She will be part-time and shared with Main Street Martinsburg.

L. Rockwool

Hazelfield, a National Register property, shares a boundary with Jefferson Orchards, but that it will not share a boundary with the Rockwool plant. Burke wants to know if JCHLC would like to issue a resolution/letter stating its opposition to the construction of the factory, because of the visual and sound impacts on nearby historic resources. Onoszko, responding to a question from Hefestay, explained that the county commission voted on a pilot agreement for Rockwool to lure them to Jefferson County. Once Rockwool chose Ranson instead of the county property, the county commission took no further part.

Koonce moved that a resolution be approved and signed at the next meeting, Horter seconded, and passed.

VII. GOODBYE TO LAUREN KELLY

Lauren has been JCHLC's AmeriCorps member for the last year and half and will be leaving for graduate school at the University of Texas later this month. Lauren was presented with a UT hoodie as a gift from the Commission.

Burke motioned to adjourn, Horter seconded, and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.