



Meeting Minutes
Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
December 16, 2020
Zoom

Members Present: Martin Burke (Chair), H.S. Leigh Koonce (Secretary), Jack Hefestay (Treasurer), John Demer

Guests Present: Addison Reese

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Public Comment: Ms. Reese stated she is working on a Jefferson County Landmarks nomination for St. Paul's Church

Minutes of the September Meeting: Mr. Koonce presented the minutes of the September meeting. Mr. Hefestay moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Demer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Hefestay presented a balance of \$51,629.42. One check has yet to be cashed. Mr. Burke moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Demer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FY-2021 Budget: Mr. Burke provided an update of the FY-2021 budget.

Draft 2021 Projects: Mr. Burke presented a list of projects the JCHLC hopes to work on during the upcoming year. Mr. Demer moved to approve the list. Mr. Hefestay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Court House Committee: Mr. Koonce stated a new County Commission representative will have to be selected, as Commissioner Patsy Noland is no longer in office. Mr. Burke stated there has been no update on the National Historic landmark status.

Interpretative Projects: At present the JCHLC has no staff. The AmeriCorps worker typically updates website, social media/marketing pages. McKenzie Hitchcock has been hired as contractor to work on updating the JCHLC website. Mr. Burke has been unable to reach Jessie Norris, the president of the Middleway Conservancy, about the status of the Middleway Design Guidelines.

National Register Updates: Mr. Demer stated the nomination for The Rocks was approved on December 3rd. The SHPO has accepted the nomination for Taylor's Meadow/McMurrin Farm. The nomination will be heard at the March 1st meeting of the WV Arts and Humanities Council and the expectation is that it will be accepted. Mr. Demer has reached out to the owners of Beeler's Mill and is awaiting a response.

Rt. 340 Project: Mr. Burke reported that four properties are to be nominated. The Spring Grove/Olive Boy nomination has been completed and will be reviewed at the March 1st meeting of the WV Arts and Humanities Council. The other proposed properties are Wayside Farm, Strathmore, and creating an historic district in Rippon.

Zoning, Concept Plan, & 106 Reviews: Mr. Burke stated the cell tower application was sent to the Board of Zoning Appeals as it was 50 feet higher than allowed. The tower will only be used by Potomac Edison and will collect meter data from surrounding houses. The Van Evera property in Shepherdstown will be the site of a new Sheetz. A rezoning request has been submitted to change it to light industrial/commercial. Mr. Burke will ask that the house be documented before it is torn down.

Title VI Complaint: Mr. Koonce raised concerns about the letter sent by George Kennedy, the attorney who the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and County Commission contracted. Mr. Burke advised no action is presently required from the JCHLC. We are awaiting either a copy of the complaint or a response to the letter sent by Kennedy.

Peter Burr Farm: The Farm has been closed up for the winter.

Duffield's Depot: Electricity is being connected and an elevation survey is being conducted. The JCHLC did receive a matching grant in the amount of \$10,485 from the SHPO to be used to fix the water issue at Duffield's Depot. Mr. Burke recommended JCHLC refuse the grant because it is too onerous to manage without staff. JCHLC also received a \$1,350 matching grant from the Two Rivers Giving Circle for the replacement of doors at Duffield's Depot.

Shepherdstown Battlefield: A clean-up day was held in October.

GeoExplorer: Mr. Demer is currently working with Tori from the Mapping Office. He asked if it might be possible to transfer responsibility to the state through the WVU Memory Project. The decision was that it wasn't advisable. Mr. Demer and Tori will continue to work on it at the local level. Mr. Burke suggested a possible name change as the project will be limited to Jefferson and Berkeley Counties.

At 8:23 pm, Mr. Hefestay moved to adjourn. Mr. Demer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

H.S. Leigh Koonce, Secretary
Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission