



Meeting Minutes  
Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission  
October 13, 2021  
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

**Members Present:** Martin Burke (Chair), John Demer (Acting Secretary), Jack Hefestay (Treasurer), Jim King, Addison Reese.

**Visitors:** Kathryn Lyle, Kerstin Harper

**Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.**

**I. Introduction of Jim King**

Mr. Burke introduced Jim King as newest commissioner bringing needed skills as a registered architect. Mr. Burke complimented Mr. King on his review of the Colonial Hills Subdivision plans and reminded that any development in the county must be reviewed by the JCHLC for its potential impact on historic resources.

**II. Public Comments**

None.

**III. Approval of minutes for August 18, 2021.**

Ms. Reese asked for clarification that trucks on Granny Smith Lane had not overrun graves rather she lined up stones along the edge of the road to help any traffic avoid driving over graves. Mr. Hefestay moved; Ms. Reese seconded those minutes be approved. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Hefestay reported a balance of \$30,663.59 or \$27,663.59 depending on whether the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) received and cashed more than one check. Mr. Burke reported that PAWV called and said it hadn't received one. Mr. Hefestay will report at December meeting.

Ms. Reese asked if Mr. Hefestay received the third invoice for Boyd/Carter Cemetery. Mr. Hefestay said he had and that he had met and was impressed with the young man doing the work. He asked that any invoice be addressed to the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission to ensure the invoice is properly routed to him.

Mr. Burke moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted; Ms. Reese seconded: vote unanimous.

## **V. Goals and Objectives**

Mr. Burke explained to our visitors that the State of West Virginia developed wide-reaching goals and objectives for their use. Mr. Burke distilled those of greatest interest to Jefferson County, namely education, awareness, identification, community and economic development, and stewardship. We will discuss these goals at our meeting in December. Ms. Reese talked about closer collaboration with Shepherd University. Mr. Burke said JCHLC already has a Memorandum of Understanding with Shepherd and asked Patrick Fuller if Historic Preservation the discipline is a major or minor. Mr. Fuller said the major is history but within the major are concentrations for public history and historic preservation.

Mr. Burke said he would apply to the West Virginia SHPO for a grant for awareness by that would include lectures and inclusion of awareness in the JC school system. He would tag grades four and eight as they are focal to West Virginia history.

Ms. Reese said elementary schools do a West Virginia History Day where someone demonstrates a craft, but she isn't sure whether COVID has affected school visits by outsiders.

Mr. Burke said the National Park Service has a Junior Ranger program with a focus on historic preservation that he would like to see adopted to Jefferson County. He asked Mr. Fuller to investigate the program.

Mr. Burke talked about handing our coloring menu placemats to local restaurants for children to color while waiting for their meal to arrive. Ms. Reese suggested asking Shepherd University to assist.

For adults, Mr. Burke talked about inviting Tom Mayes, a vice president and senior counsel of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to give a kickoff lecture during Historic Preservation month, May of 2022 in Charles Town.

Mr. Burke said that the JCHLC has concentrated on local houses; he'd like to see more emphasis on commercial buildings. Mr. Burke reminded that the JCHLC operates only in unincorporated areas of the county and that he hoped to get together with other HLC counterparts in Shepherdstown, Charles Town, Middleway, and Harpers Ferry.

Mr. Demer offered to take on "identification," to which Mr. Burke agreed. Mr. Burke will take on "community and economic development."

Mr. Hefestay talked about these being special meetings that would be organized by the JCHLC, but to which anyone was invited. Mr. Burke said we could link the recent lecture on historic tax credits presented by Austin and Carmen Slater in Shepherdstown. Mr. Hefestay talked about inviting Revolutionary War or Civil War reenactors to Peter Burr Farm or Morgan Grove Park.

## **VI. Announcements and Reports**

**A. Jefferson County Courthouse.** Mr. Burke invited anyone interested to pre-register and view on ZOOM the vetting of the National Historic Landmarks Commission nomination for the

Jefferson County Courthouse that focuses on two treason trials held there – the John Brown trial in 1859 and the West Virginia Miners’ trial in 1922. Mr. Hefestay volunteered to chair the Courthouse Committee that includes one county commissioner, the mayor, the city planner, county clerk, presiding judge, and county maintenance director.

**B. Status of Website, Facebook, Instagram**

Mr. Fuller said he had been updating social media sites regularly and that their operation seemed to be going well.

Ms. Reese volunteered that she has saved archives in recent years that includes circus material for the past 100 years that she’d be happy to send to Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Burke reiterated his interest in developing more materials on industry in the county, especially the quarries. Ms. Reese said she has files on the quarries.

Mr. Hefestay suggested broadcasting the courthouse landmark nomination to Tim Cook, editor of the *Spirit [of Jefferson County]*. Ms. Reese said that even though the Spirit publishes in hard copy once a week it updates its web page daily.

**C. Boyd-Carter Cemetery.** Ms. Reese reported the project going well with the need to focus on two headstones. Two of her helpers will move the base and set up the headstone. She wasn’t sure of how much money she needed for continued work. She said she’d be willing to apply to the Helen Parker Willard Fund for it. Mr. Burke said the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation is experimenting with awarding funds in advance of work being done rather than in arrears.

**D. Status of NR and JC Landmark nominations.**

1. St. Paul’s Baptist Church. Ms. Reese said she sent her draft nomination for St. Paul’s Church to Mr. Demer for review.
2. Route 340 Project. Mr. Burke recounted that the project would expand to four lanes Route 340 to the Virginia state line. He said the JCHLC received \$50,000 in mitigation funding and that contractor Maral Kalbian has successfully nominated *Clear Spring* to the National Register and is working on a nomination for *Glenwood*. Target is to send the *Glenwood* nomination to Emily Vance at the WV SHPO by the end of 2021. Mr. Burke said the JCHLC is on hold until the highway department finalizes the route.
3. *Beeler’s Water Wheel*. Mr. Demer reported that the draft NR nomination is with Emily Vance in Charleston awaiting her review.
4. *Haines House* on Lloyd Road. Mr. Demer met with John Coon, the owner, who agreed to have his property nominated to the National Register.

**E. Status of concept plan reviews.** Mr. Burke reported a 69-house development planned for the Morgan Grove Historic District, all on Shepherdstown water and sewer.

#### **F. JCHLC properties.**

1. Mr. Burke reported a tree down on Shepherdstown Battlefield that he hopes to clear soon.
2. Peter Burr Farm. Deborah Rushford plans an event at Peter Burr Farm after which Mr. Burke will ask the county maintenance department to winterize the site.
3. Duffield's Depot. Mr. Burke reported that we've stopped work at Duffields Depot awaiting more money. We'll need to get power to the building to install sump pumps. A benefit is that we will have power for exhibits. Two Rivers Giving Circle has funded one of two exterior doors.

**G. Jefferson County Historic Preservation Fund.** After fundraising for four-and-a-half years we've reached our initial goal of \$100,000.

Mr. Burke asked if there were any further questions. Ms. Harper asked if background documents are posted. Mr. Burke said yes, and that he would ensure Mr. Fuller continuing posting them. Ms. Lyle noted that the Shepherdstown Battlefield is in her backyard off Engle Moler Road.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Burke asked for a motion to adjourn, Ms. Reese seconded, vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.