



Meeting Minutes
Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
7pm – County Commission Room, Charles Town Library
Charles Town, WV
February 9, 2022

Present: Martin Burke (Chair) and Commissioners John Demer, CAPT Jack Hefestay, Jim King, and Addison Reese. AmeriCorps Intern Patrick Fuller.

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 7:19. Meeting started late because County Commissioners held budget hearings in the meeting room until about 7:15.

I. Public Comments: None.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2021, as submitted by Acting Secretary John Demer.

Minutes approved subject to correct spelling of Jack Hefestay’s title as “CAPT” as he is a retired Navy Captain.

Mr. Burke moved to approve minutes of December 8, 2021, meeting, Ms. Reese second; vote unanimous.

III. Treasurer’s Report.

CAPT Hefestay reported a balance of \$22,626.92 with all bills paid to date.

A. *FY-2023 preliminary budget*. Mr. Burke reported meeting with the County Commission Monday, February 7, 2022, to ask for \$25,000 to match a Federal Transportation Alternatives Grant for Duffields Depot to provide a 20 percent local match to a federal match of 80 percent. JCHLC request to be considered by the County Commission.

Ms. Reese moved to approve Treasurer’s Report and FY-2023 preliminary budget, Mr. King second; vote unanimous.

IV. Historic resources inventory changes and updating the cemetery layer.

Mr. Burke and Mr. Fuller toured the county to update historic resources inventory. New entries include properties in the National Register, buildings collapsed or burned, and so on. Mr. Burke and Mr. Fuller then meet with Jessica Gormont of the County GIS Office to update the county database. Ms. Gormont then sends the updated database to the West Virginia SHPO to update its database.

Ms. Reese said graveyards are in special need of review and update. She explained in one instance a long-time property owner had built a house over part of a cemetery dispersing head stones. Ms. Reese and her husband got permission from property owners to visit small cemeteries in the middle of farm

fields. One small cemetery contains the remains of Isaac Dust, a witness who helped convict John Brown. Ms Reese reminded that in the introduction to his study of Black cemeteries in Jefferson County, Professor Chuck Hulse conceded his research team ran out of time and was not able to catalog everything. Mr. Burke said three black crosses mark a cemetery on the county map. Ms. Reese said she's added a column for a GPS address and has added many to the record. Mr. Burke asked if Ms. Reese could conclude her listing of cemeteries by March 1.

Mr. Burke talked about the recent loss of the Belvedere Tenant House to development and loss of the Van Evera House across from Food Lion in Shepherdstown to demolition to make way for a new Sheetz gas station.

Ms. Reese will check on a possible slave quarters in good condition.

Mr. King moved to approve changes to the historic resources inventory and updating the cemetery layer, Mr. Burke second; vote unanimous.

V. Frequency of JCHLC meetings – Discuss.

Ms. Reese asked about the decision to reduce the number of meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. She said she does not know what everyone is doing, especially by way of properties. Mr. Burke said that monthly meetings may discourage potential members from joining the Commission. He added that the JCHLC is allowed to call a special meeting to discuss a single object. CAPT Hefestay said he's been on the Commission a long time, and every other month works well for him. Ms. Reese countered with important projects every other month is a long time not to meet.

Consensus seemed to be continue to meet every other month. No vote taken.

VI. Reports and Announcements

A. *Jefferson County Courthouse Committee: CAPT Hefestay.*

CAPT Hefestay said that in the last ten years the appearance of the courthouse has improved. The courthouse has been painted and the exterior cleaned up. What detracts are the windows that have no coverings inside. Mr. Burke said the county removed exterior storm windows, rebuilt window frames, and installed interior storms that do not detract from the exterior appearance. CAPT Hefestay said from the street anyone can see persons climbing the stairs [because there are no interior shades]. Mr. Burke objects to the bulletin board, but at least the county moved the outside bulletin board behind a column, but the county does not use it.

B. *Status of Website, Facebook, Instagram and projects. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Burke.*

Mr. Fuller reported he had fixed the "Donate" button on our website, the link previously having the tendency to expire. He did the same on our Instagram and Facebook pages. Mr. Burke complimented Ms. Reese for her post on Eugene Baltimore. Mr. Burke complimented Patrick for his post on the Prohibition Amendment in Charles Town. Mr. Fuller pinpointed the present-day McDonalds in Charles Town as where the bootleggers were apprehended.

Mr. Burke reported that the JCHLC had printed a new folder to describe what we do. As a trial balloon, we will distribute these around May 1 at a craft fair in Sam Michaels Park. He added that he's submitted grant requests for additional folders. Another folder with high priority is one for the courthouse, but that will need additional review to include the forthcoming National Historic Landmark designation.

C. Status of the Kearneysville Methodist Cemetery and other cemeteries. Ms. Reese.

Ms. Reese reported she has written a grant to help stabilize the Boyd/Carter Cemetery. Because of bad weather she has not been able to visit. Recently she did visit and saw metal markers leaning and other signs of deterioration. She wrote the grant for \$4,000 but wishes she had asked for \$5,000.

Ms. Reese is working on an article about Fairview Cemetery and awaits a response from George Rutherford on his input. Located next to Page/Jackson Elementary School, Fairview Cemetery may hold more than 1,200 burials.

Mr. Burke hopes persons moving into a new development, Hunts Field, will volunteer to care for it as a community project.

D. Status of NR & JC Landmark nominations.

Rt. 340 mitigation – Mr. Burke reported a local paper reported work on the Route 340 project “heating up” to extend four lanes from the Virginia line to join the four-lane Route 340 in the county, a distance of about four miles. Details remain murky.

Mr. Burke reminded that Maral Kalbian had completed a shadow National Register nomination for Glenwood because the owners did not want the property listed. Earlier Ms. Kalbian had completed a successful nomination of Spring Grove to the National Register. She will start on Oak Hill later this spring. CAPT Hefestay asked if the Rainbow Room will be saved; Mr. Burke responded “it’s going.” Mr. Fuller offered to take the sign off their hands.

Nathan Haines Farm on Lloyd Rd – Mr. Demer. Mr. Demer reported an email from Cody Straley that the project was “in review,” with a projected return to the JCHLC of “soon.”

Weirick and Weller Water Wheel – Mr. Demer. Mr. Demer reported an email from Cody Straley that the project was “in review,” with a projected return to Tom and Barbara Ingersoll of “soon.”

Shenandoah Planing Mill – Mr. Fuller. Mr. Fuller reported research on a deed chain is ongoing. Mr. Burke said Mr. Demer is working on an updated WVHPIF for the Halltown Paperboard Mill.

Status of Concept plan reviews and Zoning changes – Mr. King. Mr. King reported no new concept plans received. Mr. Burke said a new development is slated for north of Aspen Green on Flowing Springs Road.

E. ZOOM meeting with chairs for the four historic districts January 12, 2022. Mr. Burke reported a successful meeting with our counterparts throughout the county. He noted that HLCs for Shepherdstown and Harpers Ferry principally review and issue certificates of appropriateness. He suggested the groups continue to meet ad hoc.

F. Meeting with JC Board of Education curriculum coordinator January 14, 2022. Mr. Burke and Mr. Fuller met Tara Mahoney, curriculum coordinator for grades three, four, and five. Mr. Burke reported that Ms. Mahoney seemed receptive to an integration of historic preservation into lesson plans for the coming year, but the work will need to continue into future years.

G. Lecture “*Why Old Places Matter*” by Thompson Mayes May 27, 2022. Mr. Burke has invited Thompson Mayes, a Jefferson county resident and vice president of the National Trust for Historic

Preservation to speak on “Why Old Places Matter,” the subject of his book of the same title. Venue is Charles Washington Hall.

H. JCHLC Properties – Mr. Burke.

Peter Burr Farm. Mr. Burke reported that Wayne Braunstein, lead baker for many years at the Peter Burr Farm, may not be able to continue this year. Lack of baking will eliminate an interpretive component for Peter Burr, and by extension, mean a loss of income for the JCHLC.

Duffield’s Depot. Mr. Burke reported the Board of Zoning Appeals turned down the JCHLC’s request to use the commuter parking lot at Duffields for weekend programming, citing safety of visitors crossing Flowing Springs Road, the B&O tracks, and walking on Melvin Road. Mr. Burke had previously gotten permission from the state railway authority to use its lot. An alternative is to use a piece of land Mr. Burke donated to the JCHLC for parking. That use would require visitors to cross two lots owned by Ms. Ann Hunter. Ms. Hunter has kindly given permission for access by visitors to the Depot. Mr. Burke then said that Mr. King will meet with contractors for lead abatement at the Depot. Mr. Burke said the next major project will be to run power to the Depot for a sump pump and safety and security lighting.

Shepherdstown Battlefield. Mr. Burke reported that April 9 is Park Day at the SB, a day for cleanup, and a nationwide program of the American Battlefield Trust. The JCHLC and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association are lead groups for the cleanup. On another matter, Mr. Burke spoke with Cathy Robertson, deputy real estate director of the American Battlefield Trust, is in negotiations with Michael Boltz, owner of Far Away Farm, to acquire Far Away Farm for inclusion in the Shepherdstown Battlefield, and eventual inclusion in an expanded Antietam National Battlefield. Both parties have yet to agree on a price.

Farewell to CAPT Hefestay. All commissioners joined to thank CAPT Hefestay for his many years on the JCHLC and to wish him the best as he continues his work on the county planning commission. Mr. Burke noted that auditors complimented CAPT Hefestay’s treasurer reports, something not common among auditors. We welcome him back at any time.

Adjournment. Mr. Burke asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. King moved, and Ms. Reese seconded, vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:39.

Respectfully submitted.

John Demer, Acting Secretary