



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission**  
**County Commission Room, Charles Town Library**  
**Charles Town, WV**  
**April 13, 2022**

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

Guest: Ms. Kerstin Harper

Call to order: Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 7:05 and welcomed our guest, Ms. Kerstin Harper.

Introduction of new JCHLC Commissioner Raymond Benzinger

Mr. Burke welcomed Ray Benzinger as our new Commissioner. Mr. Benzinger said he was an attorney who bought land years ago in the county and moved recently from Arlington, Virginia. He was once a color specialist for National Geographic; he is also interested in the Civil War.

Public Comments.

Mr. Burke asked Ms. Harper if she had any comments, and she declined.

Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2022 as submitted by Secretary John Demer

No comments or corrections. *Mr. Burke moved approval; Ms. Reese seconded; vote unanimous.*

Treasurer's Report – CAPT Jack Hefestay

CAPT Hefestay reported all bills paid and bank accounts and JCHLC in sync; Hotel/Motel tax revenue of \$1,033; bank balance of \$24,847.41; all JCHLC accounts current and in order; and no compliments from the most recent audit. *Mr. Burke moved approval; Ms. Reese seconded; vote unanimous.*

Election of new officers for 2022-2023

Slate: Chair, Martin Burke; Treasurer, Ray Benzinger; Secretary, John Demer. *Ms. Reese moved approval; Mr. King seconded; vote unanimous.*

Reports and Announcements

JC Courthouse National Historic Landmark (NHL) status – Mr. Burke. Mr. Burke reported Kathryn Smith, NPS contact, said NHL review scheduled for new NHL nominations May 12 and May 13. Ms. Reese found an image of a sign for a “colored” washroom at the courthouse that she will forward to Ms. Smith. Mr. Burke appointed Mr. King as JCHLC rep to the Jefferson County Courthouse Committee.

CAPT Hefestay asked county Director of Maintenance Laura Kuhn to close interior shutters on windows on the front of the courthouse to hide the mess the unshuttered windows otherwise reveal.

Status of Website, Facebook, Instagram, and projects – Mr. Fuller. Extensive discussion among Ms. Reese, CAPT Hefestay, and Mssrs. Burke and Fuller on pros, cons, and costs of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram. In summary, Facebook seems to have the most current value to the JCHLC. Takeaway: all posts should include a relevant image. On April 30 Mssrs. Burke and Fuller will staff a table at the craft fair at Sam Michael’s Park to promote the JCHLC and to learn how our audiences communicate among each other – Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, etc.

Status of the Kearneysville Methodist Cemetery project – Ms. Reese. Ms. Reese reported raising the fallen headstone of Rachel Briscoe with another to go. She reported Sustainable Solutions offered to assist at no cost. She wrote and was awarded a \$5,000 grant to continue cemetery preservation and will work with trustees on a plan. Ms. Reese hopes to use ground-penetrating radar and make a map of the cemetery using LIDAR.

Status of NR & JC Landmark nominations.

1. Rt. 340 mitigation – Mr. Burke. Mr. Burke reminded that Maral Kalbian developed Glenwood as an expanded WEST Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form (WVHPIF) approved by our SHPO and Clear Spring to the National Register. Hopefully her next project will be Oak Hill; she will then have one project more to complete to fulfill her contract.
2. *Haines House* – Mr. Demer. Mr. Demer will present the Nathan Haines House to the West Virginia Commission on June 10 at Cacapon State Park.
3. *Weirick and Weller Water Wheel* – Mr. Demer. Tom Ingersoll will present the Weirick and Weller Water Wheel System to the West Virginia Commission on June 10 at Cacapon State Park.
4. *Shenandoah Planing Mill* – Mr. Fuller has advanced a deed chain and reports the Winchester Cold Storage Company still owns the property. He will continue work after he finishes a Section 106 on Faraway Farm.
5. *Isaac Clymer House* – Mr. Demer. Mr. Demer has completed a deed chain and will meet with owner John Restaino, Monday, April 18.
6. *Halltown Paperboard Mill* – Mr. Demer. Mr. Demer has finished text and needs to add images before sending the draft to the company for review.

Status of Concept plan reviews and Zoning changes – Mr. King. No new activity to report as the county seems “built out.” One new project north of Aspen Green that does not affect historical resources.

JCHLC Properties – Mr. Burke.

7. Peter Burr Farm. Mr. Burke and Mr. Fuller cleaned the upstairs of the spring house and turned on the water. K&E Landscaping will mow the grass at Peter Burr Farm.
8. Duffield’s Depot
9. Shepherdstown Battlefield. Successful Spring cleanup Saturday, April 9, including two volunteers from New Jersey – RJ MacBride and his wife, Paulette MacBride.
10. Acquisition of Faraway Farm, pros, and cons of JCHLC involvement. Mr. Burke sought two votes: the first on whether to become local partner with the

American Battlefield Trust; and the second whether to hold title to the property until it can become part of the National Park System, a provision a National Park Service study approved in 2015. On the first matter, local partnership with the ABT would allow the JCHLC to act as a pass-through for Federal funds to the ABT to transfer \$1 million for the sale of the property. That, in turn, would trigger a required federal audit at a cost to the JCHLC of about \$1,000. *Mr. Demer moved that subject to legal review, the JCHLC partner with the American Battlefield Trust on the Faraway Farm project, Mr. Benzinger seconded; vote unanimous.* On the second matter, the advantage to holding title included added income to the JCHLC from separate leases on the farmland, house, and Quonset building. The disadvantage of holding the lease would be added cost of administration, insurance, maintenance, and any other responsibilities of being a property owner. The amount of income is undetermined. *Mr. Burke moved that subject to legal review, the JCHLC hold title to the Faraway Farm property pending its acceptance into the National Park System, Mr. Demer seconded; vote unanimous.*

- B. EWVCF Matching Funds challenge – Mr. Burke. Michael Whalton, Director of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, announced a matching grant initiative whereby the Foundation would match contributions of up to \$2,000 for subscribing funds. The JCHLC has three endowment funds: (1) the Katherine Burr Jackson Fund; (2) the Peter Burr Living History Farm Fund; and (3) the JCHLC Historic Preservation Fund. Mr. Burke recommends taking monies from these funds as matching contributions. No motion needed; consensus agreed on.
- C. Preliminary Budget for FY-23 will be presented at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting – Mr. Burke. Our new fiscal year (FY23) begins July 1, 2022. Between now and then we’ll have a better idea of our income – now increasing because the National Conservation and Training Center has reopened – and B&Bs and AirBnbs are supposed to collect taxes. We don’t know what our expenses will be but will have a better idea by our meeting in June.
- D. Hiring a parttime contract employee instead of hosting an AmeriCorps Member – discussion. CAPT Hefestay explained he had split responsibilities as a young person, and he never felt he could give his all to either of his supervisors or their specific projects. He would be skeptical of sharing an employee with another county office (GIS or planning and zoning). At the same time, an AmeriCorps intern requires time and training to get up to speed and will leave within a year for graduate school or another job. The deadline to apply for an AmeriCorps intern is May 27; approval by AmeriCorps does not obligate us to hire one. We need to explore both options. Mr. Burke will apply for an AmeriCorps intern as a placeholder.
- E. Reminder Lecture “*Why Old Places Matter*” by Thompson Mayes May 27, 2022, Ms. Reese will contact The Observer for publicity.
- F. Goodbye to CAPT Jack Hefestay. Brief, heartfelt thanks to CAPT Hefestay for all he has done for the JCHLC in his many years as a commissioner, treasurer, and our representative on the county Courthouse Committee. We welcome him for a return visit any time, and we appreciate his continued work

Adjournment. At 8:52 *Mr. Burke moved that we adjourn; Mr. Demer seconded; vote unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted,  
John Demer, Commissioner and Secretary

