



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission**  
**County Commission Room, Charles Town Library**  
**Charles Town, WV**  
**December 7, 2022**

Present: The Honorable David Hammer, Judge of the Court, and Circuit Judge

JCHLC: Martin Burke (Chair); Commissioners Ray Benzinger, John Demer, and Addison Reese.

Guests: Ms. Lineka Quijano; Ms. Jo Shoesmith

Call to order: Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 7:07.

I. Public Comments: Judge Hammer said that in 1873, 64 African Americans petitioned the Court that they were being denied the right to serve on juries. The petition is missing. He would like to find it as jury duty is an event to celebrate. He's searched his files, and has contacted the West Virginia Supreme Court, State Archives, and West Virginia University, without success. Judge Hammer located a room in the basement of the courthouse that merits a search. Mr. Burke suggested contacting Jefferson County Clerk Jackie Shadle, now scanning the county's old records with a large, flat-bed scanner. Judge Hammer also said he is also a treatment court judge looking for projects to engage his clients with the community.

II. Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2022 -Mr. Demer. No comments.

*Mr. Burke moved approval; Ms. Reese seconded; vote unanimous.*

III Treasurer's Report – Mr. Benzinger.

Mr. Benzinger reported that since August 9, 2022, income totaled \$18,977.60 and expenses were \$19,881.60. leaving a current balance of \$30, 984.47. All bills are paid as of this date, and all JCHLC accounts are current and in order. Mr. Burke asked if the figure included painting of the Burr House; Mr. Benzinger said it did.

*Mr. Demer moved approval; Ms. Reese seconded; vote unanimous.*

IV Jefferson County Landmarks Nomination for Fairview Cemetery. Mr. Burke described the cemetery as off Augustine Avenue and a historically Black cemetery. He said the cemetery is not a likely candidate for National Register status as it lacks architecturally distinctive headstones and the burial of prominent persons. Commissioners praised the depth and quality of Ms. Reese's nomination and recommended it be included.

*Mr. Burke moved; Mr. Benzinger seconded that we approve the nomination; vote unanimous.*

V Archeological waivers in the Zoning ordinance. Discussion. Mr. Burke explained that the JCHLC is written into the county zoning ordinance to review and comment on the impact a project may have on the historical footprint of a project. The JCHLC does not have archeological maps available to it and must request maps through the State Historical Preservation Office. The process takes time, and when the State Historic Preservation Office is able to provide comment deadlines have passed. With no opposition, a project sails through the zoning process. Ms. Reese added that the JCHLC does not intend to impede projects rather document them before site development. Mr. Burke explained that major developers at least check records. It's smaller builders of one, two, three, and four houses that do not have follow through on checking archeological records. Mr. Benzinger said archeological review should be part of the permitting process, and that developers should not automatically be given waivers. Commissioners agreed. Ms. Reese will contact the SHPO for how to get copies of archeology records more quickly.

VI Reports and announcements.

- a. JC County Courthouse National Historic Landmark status. Mr. Burke reported that until a new National Park Service Advisory Board is named and in place our National Historic Landmark nomination for the Jefferson County Courthouse is on hold.
- b. Status of social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube). With Patrick Fuller having completed his AmeriCorps internship, Ms. Reese has taken over updating our social media.
- c. Status of Kearneysville Methodist/Boyd-Carter Cemetery project. Ms. Reese reported six headstones reset during the past year. She was aided by a tripod that can support up to 2,000 pounds that she bought with a grant. She will be able to use the tripod on other fallen headstones throughout the county. She needs help from anyone who knows how to reset headstones.
- d. Status of National Register and JC Landmark nominations.
  1. Route 340 mitigation – Shady Grove. Maral Kalbian will undertake contract work on Shady Grove, a farm owned by Wade Louthan in southern Jefferson County on the Virginia border.
  2. Susan Thornton House. The JCHLC faced pushback for a stand-alone nomination for the Susan Thornton House and instead is preparing an amended nomination to the Nathan Haines Farm. Because the Susan Thornton House occupies land that belonged to the Nathan Haines family, and because the Thorntons provided three generations of domestic and agricultural service to the Haines family, the amended nomination is warranted.
  3. Shenandoah Planing Mill/Winchester Cold Storage. The project is a work-in-progress, having been begun by Patrick Fuller. Mr. Demer offered to take it over, and Mr. Burke agreed.

4. Isaac Clymer House. Mr. Demer reported that property owners need to supply photographs.
  5. Halltown Paperboard Mill. Mr. Demer reported that the mill has closed. Mr. Benzinger elaborated that the owners appear to have closed without giving employees proper notice in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the property may be headed to bankruptcy, and if so, will likely be in protracted court proceedings.
  6. James Osbourn House. Mr. Demer reported that the National Register draft nomination will be presented to the West Virginia Commission of Culture and History February 22, 2023. Mr. Burke elaborated that on November 30, 2022, the American Battlefield Trust (ABT), with major funding from the West Virginia Outdoor Conservation Heritage Fund, the American Battlefield Protection Program, part of the National Park Service, and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, bought the property from its private owner, Far Away Farm, Inc. Early in 2023 the ABT will transfer the property title to JCHLC to hold in trust until the National Park Service adds the battlefield to either Antietam National Battlefield or Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- e. Status of concept plan reviews and zoning changes. No update.
  - f. JCHLC properties.
    1. *Peter Burr Farm.* Mr. Burke reported that the JCHLC has turned off the water and winterized the site. He told guests that house is among the oldest surviving in West Virginia, built in 1754. Its unique design can be traced to Connecticut from where the Burr family migrated to the lower Shenandoah Valley. In 2022 the County Commission allotted extra funds to have the building painted professionally.
    2. *Duffields Depot.* Mr. Burke reminded that built in 1843, the depot is the oldest combination freight and passenger depot in the United States. The site abuts CSX property by about six inches. This year the JCHLC installed electricity to power sump pumps to clear the basement of water.
    3. *Shepherdstown Battlefield.* As reported, the American Battlefield Trust bought the 120-acre Far Away Farm site from its private owner, The sale occurred only after the American Battlefield Trust, West Virginia Outdoor Conservation Heritage Fund, and Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association raised nearly \$2 million for its purchase.
  - g. Status of projects with Jefferson County schools. Mr. Burke reported success in a grant to bring a third-person interpreter to all fourth graders in the county to talk about life in 1770 in Jefferson County (then Frederick County, Virginia). The interpreter will dress in period costume and demonstrate wool carding and some other part of local life in the 1700s.
  - h. AmeriCorps intern. Mr. Burke said the JCHLC budgeted for a part-time intern (900 hours), but no one applied. The intern would earn \$13 an hour plus an educational supplement, and the experience would enhance a resume or application to graduate school. Mr. Burke said the JCHLC has had five AmeriCorps Members since 2016, and each has gone on to graduate school or a career in a related field.
  - i. JCHLC Brochures. By way of Jen Rolston at Eden Design, Mr. Burke will soon send to the printer drafts of five folders for: the Jefferson County Courthouse, Beeline March, A Contested County (the 1864 Campaign in Jefferson County), the Shepherdstown Cement Mill, and Duffields Depot.

All reprints replace those whose supplies have been exhausted.

- j. Inquiries. Ms. Shoesmith noted she volunteers at the Animal Welfare Society near Leetown and asked if the JCHLC is familiar with the small cemetery there by the road. Mr. Burke said, yes, the Coyle Cemetery was the first JCHLC addressed as it is on county land. The JCHLC used a grant from the Helen Parker Willard Fund to clear vegetation, remove trees, and rebuild the rock wall. Mr. Burke further explained that the JCHLC once owned the (*Snow Hill*) Poor Farm there but transferred title, with a preservation easement, to the Rock Spring Church to renovate.

Adjournment. At 8:38 *Mr. Burke moved adjournment; Mr. Benzinger seconded; vote unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted,

John Demer, Commissioner and Secretary