

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

November 17, 2010

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Joyce Cole, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 20, 2010 meeting were distributed. Following a correction, acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don explained his handouts. It appears we will be two months behind in receiving distributions from the county. John Allen noted that this will be a challenging year to budget funds, as we really don't know how much money we will have. HLC will budget for an audit, the minimum cost of which will be \$2,500. Don said he has put this amount in his projection. John Allen and Don Amoroso met with Mark Schiavone: the county commission now requires more documentation from anyone who gets money from them. This is a state requirement. Carmen Creamer stated that the county should pay for the audit; Bill Theriault thought this reasonable. Discussion followed. Don will talk to Mark again and get guidance. Bill suggested a CPA who has done pro bono work. Our present operating account is \$9, 693.2. The S. Howell Brown 1883 county map was sold for \$1,000. Maggie Keeler received the hand-painted Burr Farm plate that was presented to her in honor of her long service to the farm.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault described the Harpers Ferry Historical Association grant. The project received \$2,000 from AHA to be used for software. Bill described the project's finances. They will be asking for \$1,500 in the next fiscal year from HLC. A \$2,000 grant is coming from the Two Rivers Giving Circle. There is a Shepherd University grant for programming and GIS work - Bill described what work will be done. Things are progressing. They have about 15 volunteers. Don Amoroso asked whether it is a good idea to channel all funds through the HLC. Bill spoke about the options, which was followed by discussion. Bill Theriault and Martin Burke then discussed documentation on the Poor Farm.

Shannondale: John Allen wrote a cordial e-mail to DNR, which then contacted Willis Nowell; they are moving forward. Access issues have been resolved. The lease was from 2006 to March 18, 2016. Bill Theriault and John Allen agreed that the Friends of Shannondale have been great. They are easy to deal with.

Poor Farm: John Allen stated that other than making the Poor Farm a little more waterproof, asbestos removal is the top consideration.

Peter Burr Farm: John Allen noted that Martin Burke finished a redraft of the master plan last night. It will have an appendix showing when various improvements were made. Bill Theriault urged that a public meeting be scheduled for comments. John Allen

suggested that this be done online, that it be sent to the people here, and then posted. Martin Burke described the format of the master plan. They have cleaned up the northwest corner for the kids that Joyce Cole will bring. A lake was discovered in front of the building that may be the source of the drainage problem, a subject which led to extended discussion of the work done and drainage. Martin will send out the master plan draft sometime next week. He has had conversations regarding artifacts, and recommends we move them to the upstairs of the springhouse and put them on shelving; he also made other recommendations. Bill Theriault noted that an original goal was to produce portable exhibits. John Allen said it is important that the collections stay with the property. Bill spoke of concern about security for artifacts. Carmen Creamer suggested a small display of items, but that everything be catalogued first. Martin met with RCS Security, which works for the county. They did tests to see whether electronic monitoring would work, and found they could install an electronic monitoring system on every building on the site. Sensors were recommended for a rapid rise in heat, at an estimated cost of \$1,000 for equipment, and ongoing cost of \$30 per month (this is a minimum system for fire). Bill Theriault suggested that the breadbakers might pay for it. Joyce Cole asked about intruders, and Martin said we could add sensors for them. He will meet with the Harpers Ferry Job Corps, which may provide labor. Joyce reported from Reliving History that 82 children will be visiting the farm Tuesday if it's not too cold. This will be cancelled if it rains. She would like straw or hay bales for the kids to sit on (a call to the race track or Southern States was suggested), which led to discussion. Don Amoroso asked about press coverage of the Harvest Faire.

Website: Martin Burke reported that updates continue to be put up. The county landmarks now have links. He needs a volunteer. There was a discussion of putting photos of sites online.

Cement Mill: Martin is our point person on this. He met with an attorney representing the owner. It is not a simple situation, and they are in discussion. The attorney argues that our appraisal is too low - the owner may donate it with a higher valuation. There is a June 2011 deadline. Things are in negotiation.

Upcoming Events, Misc. : John Allen spoke about the Summit Point cell tower. It would be highly visible from Virginia, but will have little affect on county historic resources. Michael Musick said he sent the Van Tol coverlet to the Greenbrier County Historical Society. They will display it in their museum. John Allen asked for ideas for Shepherd University student projects. Martin Burke has a list. One idea is an oral history of the HLC. We will get 31 students.