

Meeting Minutes

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
Charles Town Visitors Center, Charles Town, W.V
July 16th, 2014

Members Present: Curt Mason, Martin Burke, Sara Lambert, Carmen Creamer, Eric Jenkins.
Guest: Bill Theriault, Peter Fricke (BAD Building Survey of Middleway)

Report of Minutes from the May meeting presented with handouts by Eric Jenkins. C. Creamer moved to accept, C. Mason 2nd, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report presented with handouts by C. Creamer. Curt Mason moved to accept, 2nd by S. Lambert motion passed.

Discussion of draft Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan recommendations

This is a planning document that is designed to carry us forward over the next 10 years. Handout of recommendations for Cultural Resources was distributed to members for review. "Envision 35" is the entire document which can be found on the Jefferson County Planning Office website. A hearing for review the document will be held on Tuesday in the basement of the Charles Town library from 5:30-7:00p.m . Steering committee will be on hand to help review concerns before the larger meeting takes place.

Middleway Projects

BAD Building Survey: (Presented by Peter Fricke) Summary of initial rating of BAD Buildings in Middleway Historic District was passed out to members. Middleway contains 61 households, 180 in the larger district. 93 properties in all, but several consolidated under a single deed. 15 buildings are outside the Historic District, but inside the Historic Village.

Comparisons were made to a similar project in Thomas, W.V. where this program has been in place. Meeting held on June 26th with WVU to prioritize these properties in an effort to identify which ones would benefit the community to restore. Discussion of long-term goals for Middleway. BAD Building report needs to be finished by December 2014

Battle of Smithfield: (Mr. Fricke) Four Days of activities to commemorate 1864 Battle of Smithfield 150th Anniversary. 28th there will be a presentation on the battle. Concert on Saturday night will wrap up celebration events. Exhibits will be open in the "White Church" and tours of the town will take place. There will also be a driving tour of the area. Brochures will be available with 12 panel foldouts.

GeoExplorer Project:

(Bill Theriault) Monday will present workshop on Geo. Explorer project at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Park Superintendent will be present. Link will be sent to landmarks commissioners for signup if interested. Goal of the project is to develop Black History stories from Harpers Ferry. As the project progresses map/overlay maps will be developed showing racial cultural history.

Historic Shepherdstown picked the first group of photos (250 of them) to add to the GeoExplorer database. Approx. 5,000 will be digitized during the project.

The new gazetteer in Geo. Explorer will be able to identify place names for properties which will then make a connection with google maps. Additional maps with a focus on village maps will be added. Bill and Martin will be working on grants to fund digitizing materials for GeoExplorer.

Martin is meeting with Mr. Roper to discuss work on Johnstown Church maintenance needs.

JCHLC Property Update

Burr Farm: Potomac Valley Audubon Society day camp is using PBF this week.

Master Gardeners would like to hold a meeting at the location in the future.

C. Thomas of Wildwood Middle School has viewed the wetlands area for possible use as a science study for Wildwood Middle School.

Snow Hill: Landmarks will hold a site meeting in the future to review the property rehabilitation plans

Low Tract: easement has not been signed yet, but will be signed by Wednesday July 23rd.

Cornfeld Tract: Closing is not scheduled yet. Must go to closing by August 15th.

JCHLC Website Renovation:

Landmarks have outgrown our webpage navigation design. Landmarks will be exploring a new design to handle our updated plans.

Discussion on using the Landmarks Commission website to draw attention to Jefferson County landmarks currently for sale.

Commissioner Reports:

Landmark owners names and address project by Curt Mason is half complete.

Sara Lambert reported that she is ready to promote local contractors and businesses specializing in historic restoration once new Webpage is complete.

Curt Mason and Martin Burke met with Annette Gavin JCCVB to discuss promotion of historic resources in JC.

Motion by Carmen Creamer to cancel August JCHLC meeting. S. Lambert 2nd . motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 9:12