

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

October 21, 2009

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Joyce Cole, Dr. John Cowan, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Kristen Marino, Fran Phillips, Seth Rivard, Bill Theriault.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by John Allen, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was summarized by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don noted the receipt of money from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, and of \$150 from the Jefferson County Historical Society for the exhibit in the hallway of the county courthouse, as shown in his handouts. Martin Burke moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

**Viewshed Survey:** There is no update yet on the Viewshed Survey.

**Peter Burr Farm:** The siding work has been completed and was well-done. We are awaiting the bids on window work from Bart Wheatley and David Gibney. Irvan Groff, reporting for the Friends of Peter Burr, observed that a great deal of fun was had by those who attended the Harvest Faire. Maggie Keeler put attendance at around 50. The Martinsburg *Journal* published all of our news releases. In view of the poor weather, it was a good turnout. The paid band and the blacksmith came; the latter will make a lock needed at the farm. Don Amoroso has completed the financial report. We spent around \$1,000 and will take in about \$500 from sales of apple butter. Bill Theriault and Maggie discussed event finances. Her petty cash report shows an opening balance of \$100, with \$54.35 left. The new balance, adding in sales, is \$83.35. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that her group is close to achieving 501C status. The Homecoming of the Peter Burr Society is scheduled for October 9-16, 2010. Direct descendants and collateral descendants of Peter Burr will attend, and there will be coverage in the *Journal*. Reliving History did the Charles Town Heritage Fair, made many contacts there, and sold \$90 worth of goods. The artifacts displayed drew much attention, as did the volunteers' children in 18th century clothes. Archaeology artifact cleaning and classification at the farm is coming along well with the help of a student from Jefferson High School. A planning committee has been formed. The American Chestnut Foundation will give 20 trees to be planted. 25 embroidered tote bags will be made and sold by Reliving History. John Allen noted that he has two boxes of Peter Burr artifacts. Joyce has posted an article by Carmen Creamer on archaeology on her website.

**Changes on Database/Map:** John Allen distributed a handout on changes to the map/database. Martin Burke moved that these changes be approved, a motion that was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed. The changes will be sent to Todd Feagan and put online.

**Poor Farm:** John Allen presented three resolutions regarding the farm: A): To accept the conveyance from the Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority of 1.711 acres; B): To authorize the HLC chairman, on behalf of the Commission, to sign the deed conveying to Rock Spring Church the 1.29 acre parcel; and C): To authorize the chairman to accept from Rock Spring Church the conveyance of the 1.10 parcel. Michael Musick moved approval of Resolution A, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed. Carmen then moved first the approval of Resolution B, and later of Resolution C, both of which in due course were seconded by Michael Musick and passed. John Allen expressed the deep thanks of the Historic Landmarks Commission to Walter Washington for his work on the Poor Farm documents. This will mean that the Poor Farm will be on one piece of property, which was not previously the case.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Data:** John Allen introduced Seth Rivard, a planner with the County Planning Commission, who spoke briefly about his interest in and commitment to historic preservation. Martin Burke reported on developments with the HLC website. Bill Theriault's book can now be found there. Martin will add bibliographic information, and link it to county libraries. All of our Minutes are now online, beginning with March 2008. A new e-mail contact form for activities was announced; eventually we will get complete contact information. Bill Theriault asked whether the chapel was owned by the County Commission, and John Allen said it is. Martin said that the next website endeavor will be to get the Explorer database online. He would like Poor Farm information and photos. Bill Theriault and Carmen Creamer discussed the scanning that was done of the Jefferson County Historical Society's *Journal*. This needs to be proofed, and photos added. John Allen reported that the committee on the GIS Grant Project (Allen, Burke, Musick, and Theriault) met last night. Bill will speak on the project at the Shepherdstown Men's Club November 9; he has new information on Shepherdstown.

**Courthouse Committee:** The committee has not met for several weeks. John Allen declared that special *kudos* is due to Carmen Creamer for putting up the entire exhibit, and for cleaning up the hallway. Carmen suggested that a letter to the county commission about the enthusiasm of the public and our HLC commissioners for the exhibit might lead to its being kept on display for a while.

**Upcoming Events, Misc.:** Before Martin Burke presented an update on PATH, John Allen recused himself. Martin then reported that there have been hearings all over the state. He did a statement on PATH's impact on historical sites, and submitted it to Curt Mason, who is with a "Stop PATH" group. The HLC is not "an intervener" in this matter. Carmen noted that this will not stand in for a "106 Review," which was followed by a discussion between Martin and Carmen. The Jefferson County Commission website has a link to reports on PATH. John Allen returned after the PATH report and discussion. John Cowan asked whether the Harvest Faire occurred on the date on which it was announced; someone from North Carolina came on the wrong date. Maggie Keeler explained that it was originally announced for October 10, but was postponed to October 17 because she had an operation. Virtually everyone was contacted about this change; we don't know how the people from North Carolina got their information. Originally the wrong date

appeared on the HLC website, but it was corrected.