

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

December 15, 2010

Members Present: John Allen, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guest: Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Martin Burke, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of treasurer Don Amoroso, no treasurer's report was presented this month.

PATH: (John Allen recused himself from this portion of the meeting). Martin Burke reported that last Friday the staff of the Public Service Commission in Charleston sent a notice to the commission urging them to dismiss the filing. A current transmission line has been approved for upgrade. The staff of the Public Service Commission stated that the claim for the need of a new line is now "ludicrous" - it should be dismissed, or documentation on why it is still needed should be submitted. The Public Service Commission must make a decision by June 2011. Martin said he may have to go to Charleston to give testimony regarding the impact of PATH on Jefferson County's historic resources. He has been in contact with the county attorney.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault reported that he has an invoice for the project's server. He needs the signature of John Allen to authorize the purchase. The cost of backup for the hard drive is \$300, and he needs a check for that amount tonight. The project's kickoff meeting is the second week in January. Work is progressing. Bill has sent in a draft of a request to NEH for a grant of \$50,000, which would include funding for one intern to input HLC data. John Allen noted that SHPO has been sending us reports on Route 340.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke reported that he has found the maps showing where artifacts were found. In November 80 school children visited the farm. At that time it was discovered that the lock had been pried off the barn. Martin replaced the lock better than it had been before. Bill Theriault noted that there have been discussions on lessening the number of doors. Martin met last Thursday with the security people to get an estimate to have heat sensors with a cell phone connection that would report to 911 installed. The estimate was \$1,200. John Allen initiated a discussion on spending the money on sensors. There is an additional charge of \$30 per month for monitoring, which John said would be an amount saved on insurance. Money from the bread bakers would be given if necessary. John Allen moved that we undertake the expenditure for security, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed. Martin Burke met with the PVAS today. He found surveyor's tape placed by the school marking the potential location of a bus storage depot next to the farm, and pointed out the location on a map. Carmen remarked that this would send water onto the Burr house; she suggested finding out if federal money is to be used for the storage lot. We agreed to allow non-weekend use of the Burr farm for June

27-July 1, 2011, by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. John Allen said we need to get a fence up soon: a chain link, or one with barbed wire on top would cost \$5,000. The fence was discussed. Martin thinks he can get most of the materials donated - he will look into this. He will also talk to the school people about why they are marking the land. Bill Theriault noted that there was a bird inventory several years ago. There will be a breadbakers/ craftworks workshop this Spring. They are trying to increase the number of people involved. The Harpers Ferry Job Corps can build benches, and might do painting. Bench designs, signage, possibility of a unisex bathroom to save space, and shelving for artifacts were discussed. Martin will look for GSA standards. He has a meeting tomorrow at the farm with representatives of Jefferson County Parks and Recreation. The master plan for the Peter Burr Farm will be considered at our next meeting.

Poor Farm: Martin Burke reported that it will cost \$3,375 to remove asbestos, which we can pay over time, and not be charged for that. We will table the asbestos issue until we can speak with treasurer Don Amoroso about it.

Website: Martin Burke has been working on county landmarks documentation, which was discussed.

Cement Mill: Martin Burke spoke with the seller's attorney today. We are not moving along very quickly. The money we have is good until June 30, 2011. A new appraisal would be lower.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: Martin Burke has a list of Shepherd University student projects. SHPO Civil War calendars for 2011 were distributed to those present. Our representatives met with the Farmland Protection people, who are seeking a new director. They are said to close this month on seven big properties. John Allen noted that we might work with them to suggest properties they might focus on. Carmen indicated this would depend on who is chosen by them, which was followed by discussion.