

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

January 19, 2011

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

Minutes: Minutes of the December 15, 2010 meeting were distributed. After incorporating a correction, acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don elaborated on his handouts. We have received \$5,533.18 from the hotel/motel tax from the county commission. Don has been trying to find out how we can avoid a *full* audit, which would cost \$3,000, but get the audit we need. We don't have much money, and there is not much to look at regarding our finances. There is only one person in the area who does that kind of work. Frances Morgan pointed out that the audit of the county commission is done by the state. Alternatives were discussed, but Don has been told we need the \$3,000 audit, which is the minimum charge. We would need to write a letter to the county commission to force a "yes" or "no" vote on a waiver. John Allen noted that the stated cost would cut our budget in half. Don said we will write a letter. John Doyle, our delegate in Charleston, may be able to help. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault reported that the kick-off meeting was last Friday, when committees were set up. There will be another meeting tomorrow. They have an intern from Shepherd University. They need \$50 per month. Bill requested \$300 for rent, and received a check for that amount. He will come back in six months. The server arrived, and is in the process of being installed. We won't see changes for a couple of weeks.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke reported that he was at the farm today from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. as the contractor was installing 98% of the monitoring system for fire protection. It will be up and running next week. Yesterday we received approval from the county schools to build nature trails, the majority of which will be on school board property. Now we know exactly where the property lines are. We will be able to handle shelving for artifacts. The breadbakers will contribute \$200 for it. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, noted that she was invited to the new middle school to give a talk. She recently was unable to get in the back door at the farm; Martin says he has now fixed it. Martin did a presentation for curriculum staff of the Jefferson County schools; the question now is whether they can budget for it. He has not yet worked on the master plan. The tractor will go away around May 1.

Poor Farm: Martin Burke received an inquiry from the asbestos contractor. We won't do anything until we get money.

Site Review: John Allen displayed a plat for the Payne's Ford subdivision. Carmen Creamer noted that the original area for the development was huge. John Allen remarked that the development has been planned in a sensitive way to avoid historic resources. There was discussion of this project, with comment by Frances Morgan. The density has been considerably reduced, and now consists of 36 lots in Jefferson County, with 31 acres developed, leaving 111 acres open. It looks pretty good for sight lines. We need to write a letter saying that there will be no negative effect on historic resources. A plan to build a new cell tower on the Maryland side of the Potomac was noted, but John Allen pointed out that it is out of our jurisdiction. Martin Burke said it's in Pleasant Valley, and John said it won't effect West Virginia. We received a letter from Cultural History about Flowing Springs walking trails. We have no concerns about these trails. At our next meeting we will discuss a proposed cell tower on the West Virginia line toward Berryville.

Website: Martin Burke reported that January updates have been made, though Dwayne could be a little more prompt. We are adding new content. Martin has been working on the county landmarks section, which was discussed. We have no indication of why places were put on the county landmarks list in the 1970s. Bill Theriault said that there is information on all of them *somewhere*, which was followed by discussion.

Meeting with Farmland Protection and Land Trust: This will take place February 2 at 1:30 in Middleway. The Freshwater Institute and commissioners Widmyer and Morgan have been invited. John Allen observed that the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia wants to help the Eastern Panhandle. The hope is to identify specific properties, and it could be a really good thing. This was discussed.

Cement Mill: Martin Burke has been talking with the landowner's attorney in Dickerson, MD. They got closer to setting a price. We sent an appraisal to the West Virginia Department of Highways. \$375,000 is the price they now have. It is appraised at \$339,000. Martin explained the process and negotiations. He thinks the purchase will happen. Negotiations continue.

PATH: (John Allen recused himself for the period when this subject was considered). Martin Burke stated that on December 10 the commission staff urged dismissal of the proposal. The Public Service Commission said that because of special conditions they will allow more time. An evidentiary hearing will occur October 11-26, 2011, with a decision by February 9, 2012. Frances Morgan commented. Martin said "stay tuned."

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Michael Musick read a letter dated January 14 and addressed to him by Nichelle Adams Hosby, Executive Assistant to the Jefferson County Commission, noting that his term on the HLC will expire on March 6, 2011, and asking that until someone is appointed for another three year term he continue to serve. The position will be advertised, and if Musick wishes to be considered for another term he must so state in writing. Musick said that he would be willing to again serve, after which HLC members made suggestions for what should be mentioned in the written statement,

such as the value of continuity in membership.