

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

February 18, 2009

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Michael Musick. Guests: Grady Allen, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 17, 2008 meeting were distributed. Don Amoroso moved their acceptance, which was seconded by John Allen and passed. (The Commission did not meet in January, due to the death of Kip Stowell).

Remembering Walton D. "Kip" Stowell, Sr. : HLC chair John Allen expressed his deep appreciation for the many contributions of Historic Landmarks Commissioner Kip Stowell, who died of congestive heart failure January 20 after a brief illness. John pledged that the Landmarks Commissioners would rededicate themselves to Kip's mission of historic preservation. Don Amoroso pointed out a recent editorial in the Martinsburg *Journal* recounting Kip's accomplishments in behalf of our community. Bill Theriault highlighted Kip's responsibility for designing the Burr barn based on an 18th century design, a project that made possible the monetary donation for building the barn. He recommended that the HLC ask Kip's son Walton for a copy of the barn blueprints to put in the HLC's files. Don suggested the possibility of placing a plaque on the barn in honor of Kip's contributions.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don noted that he has paid for our plaques, and mentioned other expenditures. He recommended that the HLC be conservative in this area, with emphasis on maintenance rather than restoration. Michael Musick moved acceptance of Don's report, which was seconded by John Allen and passed..

Site Reviews: John Allen reported on a conference call he had January 12 regarding the Route 51 cell tower proposal, which he characterized as somewhat non-productive, and which concluded with his suggestion that another site be considered.

Poor Farm: Walter Washington was unable to attend the meeting. He needs to meet with the county attorney. Walter is representing the HLC as it tries to resolve ownership issues with Michael Lowry or Rock Spring Church and the Solid Waste Authority.

Peter Burr Farm: Bart Wheatley is still looking for lime for mortar mix; John Allen will look into it. Irvan Groff gave a report from the Friends of Peter Burr, noting that he has paid \$870 for the year for mowing and bushhogging to remove shrubs and weeds. He has been helped by Tom Wright. Bill Berry reported that the Friends have \$4,007.99. It was recommended that the fourth graders' program continue. Bill proposed May 18-22 for that program. John Allen and Maggie Keeler have been in contact with Joyce Cole and Dr. John Cowan regarding the Burr Homecoming. Cole and Cowan want history-related programming, but not necessarily at the Burr Farm. Bill Theriault contributed to the discussion, and indicated that he might try to fill Kip Stowell's role in playing "Peter

Burr, Sr." John Allen said he has no more information on the drainage ditch, and added that the PSC is asking for bids in the newspaper. Bill Theriault addressed the need to establish priorities for drainage in this archaeologically "hot" area, as well as for handicapped access, and for painting the house. Maggie Keeler added to the discussion by noting the need to clean the whole house. Shepherd University interns in Museum Studies might be useful for painting.

Budget Request: The budget was submitted February 9.

Award Nominations: The following were considered for Preservation Awards: Bob and Martha Putz for restoration of Linden Spring after a fire; Helen and Mac Snyder for restoration of Rose Hill; and Henry and Faye Davenport for the train station and Altona. Considered for Historian Awards (perhaps to be named for Don Wood) were Jim Price, Bill Theriault, and Elizabeth Hyman (for her paper on Hite *versus* Fairfax in Jefferson County). Considered for the Theriault Award for Volunteers were Maggie Keeler, Bill Berry, and Curt Mason. Bill Theriault suggested surveyor Galtjo Geertsuma for an award. John Allen announced that, in order to have time for the awards ceremony, the next HLC meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. rather than 7.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: John Allen reported that the John Brown Sesquicentennial website is <www.johnbrownraid.org>. Linda Case has requested a letter of support for her application for a variance for the Craft School at Cool Spring Farm near Summit Point. No objection was found to writing such a letter. The county commission is looking for a replacement for Kip Stowell's seat on the HLC.