

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

June 16, 2010

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.
Guests: Grady Allen, Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Kelly Duncan, Todd Funkhouser, John Thornton Hilleary, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Some \$14,000 was spent on restoration of the Burr and Poor Houses; \$11.04 on printing; \$300 on the web site; and \$19.57 on utilities. We just received \$235 from the bread bakers. Also, we have taken in \$1,000 from the sale of logs at the Burr Farm, and \$3,500 from the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Carmen Creamer moved approval of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

Viewshed Survey: An uncorrected copy of the Viewshed Survey report was passed out. Chairman Allen is pleased with it, and sees it as a useful tool for the planning commission. It is more detailed than expected. John Allen and Carmen Creamer discussed the report. The planning department is in the process of doing a Route 340 study.

Poor Farm: The chimneys have been re-pointed, and a collapsed wall repaired. The hazardous wooden back porch is gone. John Allen will meet with Kirk Davis onsite to get his views on how the county can help us. Martin Burke is looking for someone to do a lead and asbestos assessment of the house. John Allen urged those present to e-mail him with their thoughts on the project, and suggested they go out and see it. Cleanup continues. A dumpster is being filled. Heather McSharry has contacted Mrs. Link regarding oral history of the Poor House, and photos of it.

Peter Burr Farm: John Allen met with Joyce Cole concerning the contents of the barn, which Heather McSharry has inventoried. Some things have been moved out, others donated. This was discussed. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that the grass has been mowed, the grounds weeded, cans of paint removed, etc. There was discussion of what is needed, and the status of the tractor. Bill Berry will find out where the tractor is. Joyce commented on the presence of gnats at the farm. David Gibney will begin work on the gable end of the house next week. A Burr House brochure was discussed. Bill Berry reported from the Friends of Peter Burr that the school program started May 1 with T.A. Lowery first graders and was very successful. It rained when the fourth graders were there, but otherwise it was a happy day, with talks on the history of the house, dancing, and good weather the rest of the week. 684 students and 184 teachers and chaperones attended. \$70 worth of apple butter was sold, and expenses were \$34.95. Carmen Creamer thanked Bill for undertaking this important educational endeavor. Bill Theriault

has given John Allen his notes for the master plan. John welcomes other comments.

Volunteer - Heather McSharry: Martin Burke has reported via e-mail regarding her outstanding work with the Historic Landmarks Commission files. Carmen will bring an additional box of records for her. Heather has written an article on the Poor House that was published in the *Spirit of Jefferson*, and done many other things. She will give a report at the next meeting. There was a discussion about paying her.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault has given treasurer Don Amoroso a check for \$3,500 from the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Grant writing and other project work is ongoing. There is progress in all areas, and at least one more grant is anticipated. In October or November an AHA grant is expected. There was discussion between Bill and Carmen Creamer. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Todd Funkhouser and John Thornton Hilleary, from the Berkeley County Historical Commission, introduced themselves. Bill Theriault asked about the domain name "PreserveHistory. Org." John Allen will look into it.

Website: John Allen reported that there is a new navigational system, and new information and pictures have been added.

Storage: No information on this has yet been received from Kirk Davis. Carmen would like to get the records to the basement.

Upcoming Events, Misc. : Shepherdstown is eager to get a water tower. There are two possible sites, one of which is where the current tanks are. John Allen showed maps and photos, and described the sites. Carmen prefers the site of the current towers. The town has not gone through SHPO. There was discussion with Carmen, Bill Theriault, Don Amoroso, and John Allen. John Allen will write a letter giving the HLC's response.