

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

August 19, 2009

Members Present: Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Ed Dunleavy, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Frances Morgan, Willis Nowell, Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault. **Note:** in the absence of Commission Chairman John Allen, Jr., the meeting was chaired by Don Amoroso.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed. Subsequent corrections were supplied by Maggie Keeler.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don reported that the HLC received \$30,070 from the county commission. He paid the contested water bill of \$894.35 for the Burr Farm; the utility company had shut off the water. Don noted that Walter Washington's telephone number still appears on our stationery. If it is used, this number should be scratched out. Regarding paperwork for transactions for under \$250 for Burr Farm needs, nothing but a check will be required. The date for the Harvest Faire is October 10. There are some omissions in this month's treasurer's report, as we haven't yet completed changing the format. Hereafter there will be no separate bank account for the Friends of Peter Burr. It's easiest to do away with it, and have the amount shown on HLC treasurer Don Amoroso's accounts. Maggie Keeler suggested that the Friends of Peter Burr president should have access to petty cash. Don will give the Friends \$50 for this purpose. Carmen Creamer moved approval of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Martin Burke and passed.

Cement Mill Property: Ed Dunleavy gave a PowerPoint presentation on this property, distributed a "Proposal for a Jefferson County Potomac River Front Park" ("presented by the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc., July 30, 2009"), and a draft resolution for the HLC recommending that the county purchase the Cement Mill property on River Road, and stipulating consultation with three historical groups in developing and interpreting its historic nature. The property includes the 1829 cement mill and part of the site of the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown. There is approximately 2,200 feet of river frontage for the property, and the owner has expressed willingness to sell. Carmen stated that we should allow HLC chairman John Allen to review the wording of the proposed resolution, and not vote on it tonight. Bill Theriault urged that when the property is obtained, the county pursue National Register nomination for it. He thinks the industrial history more important than the Civil War aspect. Ed Dunleavy indicated that National Register status is already being sought, and explained the work of WVU in this regard. Ed has been working with Senator Byrd's office; the site would become part of either Antietam or Harpers Ferry national parks.

Peter Burr Farm: Bart Wheatley will begin siding work soon. Joyce Cole said she has e-mailed John Allen regarding interior use of the barn. There was discussion between

Joyce Cole and Maggie Keeler on the survey of the property. Bill Theriault pointed out a need to distinguish between maintenance and interpretive matters, and urged revision of the master plan accordingly, focusing on physical changes. He would like meetings on it to meet the needs of the people onsite, and suggested that Joyce Cole, Maggie Keeler, himself, and an HLC member meet at 6 p.m. before the next HLC meeting to work on master plan revision, then every third Wednesday until completion. Irvan Groff asked for \$3,500 to buy a 1992 frontend-loader tractor. This was followed by discussion between Bill and Carmen about the archaeological sensitivity of the area outside the moat. Carmen moved that the HLC no longer accept any property when land ownership issues are not resolved; we can't take care of property we don't own or own a right of way to. Bill said water runoff issues need to be pursued; we should address questions to the Development Authority. Carmen noted that drainage and water are interacting, continuing issues, which was followed by extended discussion. Don remarked that we won't resolve this issue tonight. Frances Morgan asked if there is residual bonding from the Development Authority, and suggested that the county engineer look into it. Don said we will write a letter to do this. He moved that we contact the county engineer to review the drainage situation compliance with the storm water management issue, which was seconded by Carmen and passed. Maggie Keeler reported from the Friends that about 75 people attended an event that featured a tomato tasting, and that included a garden group from Shepherdstown. They gave us a \$45 contribution. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, noted that she has sent a written report to each of the HLC commissioners. She then summarized her report. There will be a photo shoot for publicity September 12. They are working on 501C status, artifacts, etc. Sept. 19 they will be at Charles Town Heritage Day. She would like to reserve the Peter Burr kitchen for Sept. 18. A pretzel sale, soil samples, types of trees on the property, and the Harvest Faire were discussed.

Willis Nowell - Shannondale Springs: Willis Nowell reported on developments at Shannondale, including removal of a boulder, in the effort to maintain the status quo. He invited the HLC commissioners to visit, and noted that the commission has a lease on the historic portion. He asked about a historic marker on Route 9, to which Carmen responded by giving the history of the marker program. She suggested talking to the historical society about a marker. We can look into having the HLC put a marker on the bath house. This was followed by discussion of markers.

Site Reviews: Don Amoroso recused himself from any discussion of the proposed elevated water tank outside Shepherdstown, but the subject was only briefly mentioned. The Bullskin National Register District is moving forward.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: Bill Theriault met with Todd Fagan several weeks ago on the Historic Resources Map & Database update and move to the Addressing office. He asked to talk with Frances Morgan after tonight's meeting regarding the GIS system, etc. Martin Burke reported on website improvements. National Register listings have been updated, and there is a Shannondale link. He wants to create an HTML version of Bill Theriault's book. He noted the dates for history lectures at Shepherdstown Men's Club. Martin and John Allen met with Jennifer Brockman Aug. 10 to inform her of HLC projects; they want to cooperate with her on GIS. Zoning and watershed analysis were

mentioned.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: Martin noted that PATH is advertising in the Charleston area. Frances Morgan requested that the HLC write a "me too" letter to invite President Obama to Harpers Ferry for the John Brown Sesquicentennial Oct. 16. Don noted Jefferson County's desire to have a county seal, and passed around two design proposals which had been submitted. Joyce Cole has had a Burr family crest embroidered, and displayed a framed version. Copies of the crest will be sold for \$250 each. Frances Morgan asked for the views of those present on how significant the historic aspect of the project Ed Dunleavy proposed is. There was consensus that the historic aspect is very significant indeed.