

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

September 16, 2009

Members Present: John Allen, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.
Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Willis Nowell, Bill Theriault.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by John Allen, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Don Amoroso is attending his daughter's wedding, and was unable to attend. Chairman John Allen reported that Don paid the insurance bill, and additional minimal bills. There has been little change since the last report.

Viewshed Survey: Michael Musick moved that we move forward with a contract with Scenic America for a survey of the viewshed from the Clarke County line to the Loudoun County line, encompassing the entirety of the Route 340 corridor. This was seconded by John Allen and passed. This will be an assessment of what we have, with a GIS visibility map.

Peter Burr Farm: Irvan Groff reported that no siding work had been done as of this past Saturday. It should start this week. We will have at least two sets of window bids, those from David Gibney and Bart Wheatley. Irvan noted that the yards are kept mowed. Maggie Keeler, from the Friends of Peter Burr, reported on work on the Harvest Faire. They would like to hire the blacksmith previously used; last year's music group has been invited. Bill Theriault, Maggie, and Carmen Creamer discussed arrangements, including baking. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that the American Chestnut Foundation has approved us for a small demonstration project. There are questions about soil and drainage. Some trees that have been planted as a tree buffer have died. She would like a minimum of two or three. Archaeology at the site is progressing, and we would like to interest high school students in the project. At 3:30 this Friday the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation will be there for a photo shoot. On September 19 pretzels will be sold at the Charles Town Heritage day, where Reliving History will have a booth. The 1772 Foundation will be giving Reliving History their grant request requirements. The Burr Family Reunion will be sometime in October 2010 at the Holiday Inn. The family would like a hands-on project for about 40 people. Maggie remarked that the kitchen has not yet been re-approved by the health department, which needs to be done yearly in order to legally sell any items made there off-site. John Allen was contacted via e-mail by Valerie Burr, of England. She wanted to visit the farm, but we don't know if she did. Bill Theriault reported on a meeting of the Master Plan Committee before tonight's HLC meeting. There will be bread baking at the Harvest Faire.

Cement Mill: Carmen Creamer noted that the proposed resolution on the Cement Mill site was tabled at our last meeting. Martin Burke said we might use just the first paragraph. Bill Theriault urged equal weight for the Cement Mill and the battlefield,

remarking that we need to be sensitive to the archaeology. Discussion, with Bill and Carmen, took place. John Allen suggested we might write a letter urging the county to proceed with the purchase, but asking that any alterations to the property go before the HLC. Martin noted that Parks and Recreation is taking the lead in purchase negotiations, which was followed by discussion. Carmen suggested that we make it eligible to be a county landmark next time. John Allen will send around a draft of a letter.

Shannondale: Willis Nowell reported that his group is just trying to maintain the site. They have mowed a path, and made walking paths to the springs. On Saturday, weather permitting, the gate to the springs will be opened. There will be a mile and a half walk beginning at 1 p.m. at the boat ramp. Sunday is the rain date.

Site Reviews: The Beverly National Register nomination has been submitted, with an additional 425 acres of land.

Poor Farm: We have nothing new from Walter Washington on this. A quote was submitted to rebuild and repoint the rear window of the building where the mortar has been washed out of the brickwork. The price given for the work was \$4,400. The committee agreed to do nothing regarding this stabilization until the property ownership details are worked out.

Ad Hoc Committee on Data: The committee has not met recently. Martin Burke reported on our website. Our web person has disappeared, and we await his return. We can update the calendar without him. Regarding the sale of the domain name "preservehistory.org," we do not have authority to sell it. We can use it, but do not control it, and cannot profit from it. Bill Theriault noted that the Peter Burr plan will be posted for two months for comment. Bill announced that the Ad Hoc Committee on Data will get together at 6 p.m. on Oct. 19.

Courthouse: John Allen reported on the Courthouse Committee, on which Carmen has been doing the lion's share of the work to get it ready for the 150th anniversary of the John Brown Raid. Vending machines will go to the shed outside the courthouse. There was an inventory of basement books and furniture. Almost all the furniture is original to the immediate post-Civil War reconstruction of the building.

Upcoming Events, Misc.: Martin Burke gave an update on PATH, from which John Allen recused himself. There will be hearings on PATH at the Shepherd University Arts Center. These will be at 12:30 and 6:30 on Sept. 22 and 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 23. Martin will attend at least one meeting. There will be a lecture on John Brown Sept. 18 by John Cuthbert. The play "The Anvil" is being performed. The Tour of Washington Homes was announced. Bill Theriault noted that he received a phone call from Matt Knott, whose historic property on the Potomac River Mr. Knott extended an open invitation to visit. The property includes warehouse sites. Mr. Knott would like advice on how to proceed. Bill recommended that the HLC or someone else go in and map the site. John Allen will call him, and Bill will send him information.