

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

August 17, 2011

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

Minutes: Minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Martin Burke, and carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. We now have \$5,809.99. John Allen reported that we were asked by the county for a balance sheet, which was mailed a week ago Thursday. Allen described what was sent in to the county clerk's office. We had money remaining at the end. Amoroso explained that we have never received a definitive answer to our question about an audit. Berkeley County's HLC paid \$3,000 of their \$10,000 for an audit. He doesn't know what our situation will be. In response to a question from Commissioner Morgan, he said an audit cannot be done *gratis*; it must cost \$3,000. Amoroso further urged that we not run up any more bills. Allen said that the state has not responded to our request for an audit. He was asked to send another e-mail to the state, and try to reengage them. Amoroso noted that we put up \$1,500 to Jamie Stoner for the completion of her 400 hour internship. Allen said she has done several different projects, which have been classified under "archaeology." Allen further remarked that the bread bakers have agreed to pay for specific things. This was followed by a discussion of income and expenses. GeoHistory expenses were discussed between Allen and Bill Theriault. Cash flow was discussed with Commissioner Morgan. We agreed not to continue paying dues to the Chamber of Commerce (\$50). Amoroso asked about the Harvest Faire. Martin Burke has spoken to Kristen Marino about it, and will find out who the contact person is. Amoroso pointed out that we need the details to get the grant. Theriault wants to be able to budget his expenses. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Burke and carried.

Insurance: John Allen talked to Don Wood of Berkeley County about the Risk Pool. Wood loves it. Amoroso said we will need to pay in September-October, and need to decide what we will do before the next bill. Burke moved we go with the WV Counties Risk Pool, which was seconded by Musick and carried unanimously.

GeoHistory Project: Theriault announced that there will be a presentation on the project at 7 p.m. September 8 at the Byrd Center. On October 29 there will be an all-day symposium on the subject at Shepherd University. Theriault is working on a grant for a teachers institute that starts in June with the Harpers Ferry Park on the Battle of Harpers Ferry. He described the project on Virginius Island. They have completed the Shepherdstown quad, but not the municipality of Shepherdstown.

Poor Farm: Burke gave us prices for various aspects of work on the farm, with estimates from Bart Wheatley. Burke will look for estimates from others. Discussion followed.

Peter Burr Farm: Burke reported that the Harpers Ferry Job Corps is onsite, cleaning buildings, painting, etc. Allen said their work looks cleanly done. Burke hopes to use the Job Corps for other projects. We are waiting on work on the big trees. Regarding Reliving History, Burke will check with them. The bread bakers were at the Burr Farm last weekend; they have breadbaking classes scheduled. In the category of upcoming events is the Harvest Faire.

Cement Mill Purchase: Martin Burke reported that this is now a Historic Landmarks Commission project, following our approval. He has been on the phone with the attorney for the owner. John Allen has signed an extension for the grant. We have a draft of the National Register nomination.

Bullskin Run Historic District: Allen reported that this is the third time this National Register nomination has been submitted and advertised. Now a "firestorm" of opposition has appeared in the southern part of the county. Signatures are being gathered for a public meeting, and we don't know how it will end up. The HLC or SHPO could send out a mailer to property owners to dispell misinformation about any affect on individual property rights. The new situation was discussed.

Site Review: The Leetown Cell Tower (Payne's Ford Road) Verizon site was discussed. Allen passed around information and pictures. This is a large silo, 120 feet tall. We decided to write a letter inquiring regarding the visibility of the tower/silo when the tree cover sheds. We are concerned about the potential negative impact on "Prato Rio," a historic resource. John Allen agreed to write the letter.