

## Minutes

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Oak Tree Farm – Uvilla, WV  
December 17, 2014

**Members Present:** Sara Lambert, Curt Mason, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, and Eric Jenkins.      **Guest:** Bill Theriault, John Demer

**Minutes:** Eric Jenkins presented minutes with handouts from the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. C. Creamer moved to accept the minutes, C. Mason seconded, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carmen Creamer presented the treasurer's report with handouts. Curt Mason moved to accept the report as presented, Seconded by Sara Lambert, motion passed.

### **Financially related Information:**

- Discussion of reductions in hotel/motel tax revenues as a result of typical winter tourist slow down.
- Next Tuesday Cornfeld Tract will go to closing on conservation easement. Costs to JCHLC include title insurance.
- Note that a five hundred dollar reimbursable grant was received from Two Rivers Giving Circle towards digitization of historic newspapers.
- Jefferson County Landmarks is not a sustaining member of Preservation Association of WV. For \$100.00 annual contribution JCHLC can become a sustaining member. C. Mason moved to accept. 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Burke, motion passed.

### **WV GeoExplorer Project:**

- Bill Theriault recommended scanning the Shepherdstown Registrar 1849-1938 with grant monies received to date.
- Bill finished cataloging wills, 8,800 now are online for access.
- Recently met with the Jefferson Co. Planning and GIS Office staff. Noted that the GeoExplorer should be used as a cultural resource assessment by planning commission.
- WV GIS Technical Center has made mention that they may be able to supply some future funding for GeoExplorer.
- WVU Public History is interested in working with GeoExplorer program.
- USGS Topo maps of JC from 1883 are currently online thanks to Mrs C. Mason

### **2015 JC & NR Landmark Projects:**

Commission reviewed structures and sites for possible Jefferson Co. landmarks status. JCHLC is looking for the next wave of properties to nominate. Feagans Mill is being researched. Rose Lawn has been previously voted on for addition as a County landmark and research continues. Rock Hall is in discussions for addition as a National Register Property nomination as well as Johnstontown. Eric Jenkins will explore the Abraham Snyder property (Barn/House/Cemetery) and if time allows the Duffields General Store. Mr. Demer is researching a Feagans Mill nomination.

Discussion of properties that are currently on the National Register but not designated as Jefferson County Historic Landmarks, should we add these properties after the fact?

**Shepherdstown Battlefield:**

At the November meeting it was noted that JCHLC would not hold title to the Merkham Tracts. Discussion on whether JCHLC is willing to consider holding the easement on the property. Jefferson County Historic Landmarks currently holds an easement on Blakeley Farm. Noted that easements should not be taken on unless funds have been designated for easement enforcement. JCHLC will hold easements if JC Prosecuting Attorney Office will defend JCHLC when needed.

**Budget Planning for 2016:** Discussion of

- Americorps Program application due Feb 27, 2015 -
- New roof for Snow Hill, grant deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 – awaiting estimates
- Court House maintenance. Grant funds have been awarded for gutter, downspouts and roof elements and hopefully windows and moldings.

**Commissioners' Reports:**

- BAD Building Survey: No report
- Photo Contest: (Curt Mason) Currently no movement, waiting Jefferson Arts Council reply. Rip Smith offered to help with an online submission system. A Paypal account may be needed.
- JCHLC website transition to JC server will take place in January.
- 2015 Legislative initiative. Landmarks hopes to have a letter of support from the County Commission in favor of changing definition of “certified historic structure” thus expanding tax incentive for historic landmarks properties. PAVW and SHPO have been notified.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15pm