

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

March 16, 2011

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

Minutes: Minutes of the February 16, 2011 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by John Allen, and passed.

Election of Officers: Martin Burke nominated the following officers for the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, who have agreed to serve: John Allen, Chairman; Michael P. Musick, Secretary; Don Amoroso, Treasurer. These officers were voted in.

Treasurer's Report: John Allen reported that treasurer Don Amoroso is sick and unable to make the meeting. Don's handouts were distributed. We received \$1,256.95 from the hotel/motel tax for February. We currently have \$12,806 in our operating account. We have submitted our budget, and added \$3,000 to cover the cost of the new audit requirement. Martin Burke spoke about the money he needs above the \$1,000 from the breadbakers. He would like \$1,000 for fencing and Spring cleanup at the Peter Burr Farm and \$3,000 for Poor Farm asbestos. He has gotten some donations of materials. We are selling the tractor in May, and should receive a minimum of \$2,500 for it. John Allen will run the requests by Don Amoroso. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Martin Burke and passed.

Insurance: John Allen reported that Commissioner Frances Morgan is pleased with the County Risk Pool so far. They are paying dividends to some counties. Offers will be compared. Frances Morgan stated that we will be contacted regarding insurance for volunteers.

Meeting with Farmland Protection Land Trust: John Allen met with Peter Fricke on March 10 in a follow-up to the Middleway meeting. We want to talk to property owners who are interested.

GeoHistory Project: Bill Theriault reported that the website has been redesigned. They have converted about 25,000 images from Explorer - they will be online in about a month, but won't include photos. All Bill needs are volunteers. Martin Burke says he has them. The project will focus first on Harpers Ferry. In response to a question from Martin Burke, Bill said the relationship with Shepherd University is going well. They have bi-monthly meetings. Volunteers meet once a month. Bill explained the volunteer program.

Peter Burr Farm: Regarding the Master Plan, what is on the website is still the draft. We are waiting until we have more commissioners before further revision. In general, our idea was to rebuild a variety of user groups. The PVAS Summer camp is requesting a second week, which the HLC voted in favor of. We also received a request from

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation on birding for June 3 and 4. We will try to find the old birding list. Naturalists are now working at the farm. We found information on the history of the garden, and will try to get the Master Gardeners involved. Next Wednesday the WV conservation agency will visit. The garden will be ADA accessible. There was extended discussion of the garden. Frances Morgan asked whether the Job Corps would make protectors for tree seedlings, and Martin Burke said they would.

Cement Mill Purchase: Negotiations continue. We are waiting for the WV D. of H. approval of the appraisal. John Doyle is working on it. Martin Burke explained the matching funds, and discussed this with Frances Morgan. John Allen asked if we can purchase the property before going before the county commission, and if so, can we divest the property. We need to look into this. Perhaps the Civil War Trust can take title. There was extended discussion of the situation.

Site Review: Don Amoroso and John Allen were present at 3:30 a.m. for balloon tests at the Route 340 cell tower site. They couldn't see the balloons from the historic resources. Frances Morgan noted that the county passed a wireless communication facility location ordinance (i.e. a new cell tower ordinance). On a Dominion Power upgrade, Frances Morgan said that 30-foot additions to the towers are probably better than PATH. John Allen noted that the towers may be less than 30 additional feet.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Martin Burke said that updates on the website are done once a month. They will try to add a virtual tour of the Peter Burr house. Michael Musick reported on installation of the three HLC-sponsored markers in the Civil War Trails program.