

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

May 15, 2011

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Fran Phillips, Bill Theriault

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

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. We don't yet have a bill for asbestos removal at the Poor Farm, which was completed this morning. There was discussion of projected expenses and income. We received \$3,000 for the old mower at the Peter Burr Farm. John Allen urged that we get a bid on trimming trees there. Major projected expenses are: \$3,500 for asbestos; \$5,000 for GeoHistory; around \$500 for a student intern. John Allen will get prices on window sealing at the Poor House. Don Amoroso spoke to John Doyle regarding the Fairs and Festivals Grant. Martin Burke asked about income from the breadbakers. Martin said that all of the archaeology collection is now in the upstairs of the springhouse. John Allen has been asked by the county to contact the state auditor's office, which will be interested in doing our audit. They wouldn't say whether we will have to pay for this audit. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Martin Burke, and passed.

**Insurance:** John Allen has not yet heard back from the West Virginia Counties Risk Pool.

**GeoHistory Project:** Bill Theriault reported that there is much more up on the website than last month, and described what is there. It has the full text of three books. There is a database section. They are making progress, but still have a long way to go. An internship by Christy Conrad did not work out, though she did take photos at the Peter Burr Farm for Martin Burke. They are getting volunteer interns from Shepherd. Martin Burke asked when we can start promoting this in the newspapers, and Bill said June 1, though it's a work in progress. There was a discussion with Carmen Creamer on working with the historical society.

**Summer Intern:** Martin Burke reported that Jamie Stoner, who has a 400-hour internship requirement at Shepherd, has been accepted as a Summer intern. She will also work on the GeoExplorer project. She will continue to work on reorganizing the HLC archives. We will look for space. She will also work on county landmarks that don't have extensive file information, to get at least a page on each one. In addition, she will work on interpretive signs at the Peter Burr Farm and is required to do a research project, which might be a National Register nomination for the Cement Mill.

**Peter Burr Farm:** Martin Burke said they have spent a fair amount of money on fences separating the farm from the railroad and a fence around the kitchen garden. They

continue to remove things from upstairs and behind the barn. The upgrades in the kitchen are done; there are now six tables and 16 benches; straw bales have been removed; fruit trees trimmed, and the garden archives found. Next week fourth-graders will arrive. We received a \$150 quarterly donation from Home Depot, and a plastic watering can from Southern States. The farm has been taken on by the West Virginia Conservation Agency, and will receive free plants for the wetland. Martin described the Potomac Audubon camp for kids. John Allen asked whether the doors to the cellar are an issue, and Martin said he will talk to Kelly Duncan about it.

**Cement Mill Purchase:** There was a county commission meeting May 5 in which Martin Burke gave a half-hour presentation on the status of the acquisition. On June 1 there will be a meeting for public input. There has been objection to flipping the property to the federal government, and to the county spending \$100,000 on it. John Allen asked how we may facilitate sale of the property with state funding, which was followed by extended discussion of funding options and procedures, liability, and related matters. Michael Musick moved that the HLC will accept the property, and hold it up to a year, provided assurance is received from the National Park Service that they will accept the property, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed unanimously. It was noted that if the state refuses to pay, the deal will fall through. John Doyle is working on state approval of the appraisal.

**Site Review:** The owners of "Hawthorne," near Summit Point asked to be allowed to host more events on their property than are currently allowed. We have written a letter approving of this as a way to save the property. A letter has been sent regarding Highland Farm. John Allen was present at the balloon tests for the Kearneysville Pike cell tower, and reported that it is a short tower with which he saw no problems. Martin Burke commented on the large size of the Hite Road Park, which would be a County Parks and Recreation park. Carmen Creamer noted there were toxic materials there. Martin showed documentation pertinent to the park, and talked about it. John Allen stated that SHPO has information on it. We were invited to comment on the Middleway Fire Department building by the county commission; no problem was seen with it. We have no comment on a proposed addition to the Shepherdstown Asbury United Methodist Church at 4257 Kearneysville Pike, which is an area already disturbed, but John Allen will write a letter asking that further electronic signage be stopped, as it is detrimental to the Morgan Park viewshed.

**Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous:** SHPO will come here June 3, and John Allen will show them the county courthouse, Taylor's Meadow, and Avon Bend. He stated that in his meetings with the Farmland Preservation Board the board is hemmed in by their by-laws. He pointed out that doing tax easements this year and next year will have enormous tax advantages. We can notify property owners of the 100% write-off, and will notify certain farmers in June. John Allen closed the meeting by telling those present that he will not be able to attend the June HLC meeting.