

## **Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting**

**May 20, 2009**

**Members Present:** John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick.  
Guests: Bill Berry, Joyce Cole, John Cowan, Irvan Groff, Maggie Keeler, Bill Theriault.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. He noted a \$25 donation received in memory of the late Kip Stowell, an HLC commissioner. Don then called attention to the large water and sewer bill for the Peter Burr Farm, totalling \$451. The farm is alleged by Jefferson Utilities to have used 26,000 gallons of water. Don proposed that we meet with a man from Jefferson Utilities and a plumber to consider the situation. This was followed by a discussion of the problem, with comments by Bill Theriault, Irvan Groff, and John Allen. It was decided that Don and John Allen will meet with Jefferson Utilities. Carmen Creamer moved approval of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Michael Musick and passed.

**Peter Burr Farm:** John Allen reported that he has had Shepherd students working at the Farm. The manager has gotten rid of a tree stump, but a ditch needs to be filled with earth. Two donations have been received for the farm. Irvan Groff, from the Friends of Peter Burr, said the Farm will be made ready for a school group, and a garden will be planted. Maggie Keeler suggested changing the statement in the April 15 minutes that the Friends would no longer "coordinate" activities to "schedule," which was agreed to. She also distributed the 2009 Friends of Peter Burr Schedule of Events. Bill Berry noted that 500 students are scheduled to visit. There was a discussion of safety issues, and wells in particular. John Allen said that we will eventually get something that looks appropriate. Bill Berry reported that there is \$3,869.13 in the Friends account. One check has been written for plants and seeds for the garden. Irvan commented on problems caused by animal pests. Joyce Cole distributed a "Report from Reliving History, Inc.," and requested use of the Springhouse on June 10, which request was approved. John Allen stated that we have no problem with Joyce using the physical address of the Burr Farm. Joyce then distributed copies of an information packet on AmeriCorps, whose organization she helped to manage in Tennessee. Joyce offered the HLC whatever role it might want.

**Site Reviews:** John Allen will meet with the director of facilities for the Shepherdstown water board on proposed water tanks outside of Shepherdstown. John went to balloon tests for the Mount Hammond Road cell tower, and reported that it would not be generally visible. He wrote a letter to that effect to the SHPO. John is sending the requested survey forms to those responsible for the proposed Mission Road cell tower across the river from "Hopewell," where there is already one cell tower. John has also contacted the highway department to ask that they take steps to keep the lights from traffic from shining on the front of "Traveler's Rest." John expressed concern about

development adjacent to "Woodlawn." Although we have no jurisdiction over Ranson, we can write a letter.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Data:** The updated Historic Map and Database has been moved to the addressing office, and is now part of the county package in the mapping office. John Allen called attention to Martin Burke's work on the HLC website, which now has a new calendar on it. There was a meeting April 22 between Martin, John Allen, and Bill Theriault to familiarize Martin with the Database and Mapping.

**Geographic Information System (GIF) Grant Project:** Bill Theriault proposed that the HLC go after a one-year \$20,000 grant to develop a county GIF system. This would bring together copies of all historical maps and make them accessible online, and would incorporate the maps into the existing Jefferson County GIF, providing information for planning and preservation which would supply a "visual gazetteer" to locate properties by name. Matching funds would be in-kind or cash. Bill would like to meet with part of the HLC to get everyone up to speed, and then have it voted up or down. The project of putting together a proposal for the GIF was approved; a subgroup will flesh out the proposal.

**Courthouse:** John Allen reported that the county commissioners sent a letter to the HLC stating that they want all the county's historic buildings in "pristine shape," and asking that a committee be named to make suggestions on maintenance and decoration of the courthouse. The HLC suggested various persons who might be named to such a committee. Bill Theriault remarked that this might be a good time to get a Historic Structures Report for the courthouse, which he observed is not the building as John Brown knew it. John Allen asked that we determine what can be done before the October anniversary events, and then later. Carmen Creamer and Don Amoroso pointed out maintenance and painting needs.

**Miscellaneous:** John Allen has sent a letter to the county commissioners regarding the visitors center at Harpers Ferry (which he read), indicating that the current structure sends the wrong message, and urging that the CVB be moved from a trailer to a historic building.