

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

November 16, 2011

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Shelli Dronsfield, Richard Klein, Jerry Maymon, Frances Morgan, Kirsten Peeler, Alan Perdue, Bill Theriault, Dan Yanna.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Don Amoroso, seconded by Martin Burke, and passed. *Please note that due to the closeness of our regular meeting date to Christmas there will be no meeting of the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission in December 2011. The next meeting will be in January 2012.*

Site Reviews: Shelli Dronsfield of Shepherd University gave an overview on the proposed Shepherdstown pedestrian underpass on Duke Street. This should increase pedestrian safety and help with traffic flow. The project is scheduled to begin in early 2012. Richard Klein provided additional information. John Allen noted that our main concern was with the historic stone wall and the Keller residence. Questions were fielded from Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer and Frances Morgan. Burke remarked that it was an extremely ambitious construction schedule.

Cement Mill: Martin Burke distributed a handout on the subject, and said that we are trying to get all the funds together for the purchase. The county commission will hear from the HLC tomorrow morning about the \$25,000 needed for the purchase. There are two main points: a conservation easement and funding, the latter being the big issue. It will be walked through the accounting process. Burke will ask for \$25,000 from the county commission tomorrow morning. He has had many conversations on the matter. The issue was discussed. We will explain how close we are to our goal, and that our request for \$25,000 is only 7% of the total. There will be no action taken tomorrow. Our last position is to go back to SHAF and the Civil War Trust to request the money. We have a contract, but it's still tenuous. Settlement date is November 30, with an extension until December 20. Allen announced that the Historic Landmarks Commission will **not** meet next month, because of the Christmas holiday. Burke said the HLC will be responsible for closing costs, and mentioned title insurance. Possible further funding to be contributed by the HLC was discussed. Carmen Creamer moved that if necessary for the Cement Mill purchase, the HLC allocate an additional \$5,000 for these expenses. This was seconded by Don Amoroso and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Receipts were \$2,113.69 from the county commission; \$874.25 from Sherwin-Williams. Burke stated we will get a bill for \$1,400 for five sycamore trees. Amoroso noted we have \$10,000 in our operating account. Acceptance of the treasurer's report was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Michael Musick, and passed.

GeoHistory: Bill Theriault reported on the October 29 symposium. There was significant snowfall that day, and attendance was 27 people. It was successful given the circumstances. Allen remarked on how good the opening presenter was. Shepherd students are focusing on Virginius Island. Theriault asked Allen for \$129 to upgrade the website software. Theriault noted the controversy over the location of the site of the Town of Potomac. It was probably the name for Shepherdstown in 1760. Theriault has found old photos, mostly of the Peter Burr House.

Insurance Risk Pool: John Allen reported that we are now in the Insurance Risk Pool. Amoroso said he has sent in the first premium check.

Peter Burr Farm: Martin Burke reported that the site is being put to bed for the winter. We do not have to meet the commercial code for the kitchen. There is a bake sale registration requirement. The church group will hold its event elsewhere. Burke has had a survey done. There is a U.S. Coast Guard security camera that monitors the door of the house 24 hours a day.

State Historic Preservation Office: John Allen reported that representatives of SHPO visited November 3 and answered questions about what was said at a previous meeting of the county commission regarding the Bullskin Run Historic District. Martin Burke gave the background on this. Allen said it is unlikely the number of persons opposed will go down. There was discussion about a fourth nomination of the Bullskin Run district and local zoning ordinances affecting National Register properties. Allen will contact the planning office to see if there are items in the ordinance dealing with historic properties that the HLC should know about, and will check with SHPO to see that paperwork is in order for another submission.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Burke would like to get together with Summit Point photographers for the website. Also for the website, he would like to use the photos from John Allen's new book. Allen noted that there is an exhibit on *Uncommon Vernacular* at the American Institute of Architects headquarters at the Octagon House in Washington, DC, through January 1. Burke moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Amoroso and passed.