

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

June 18, 2008

Members Present: John Allen, Don Amoroso, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick, Kip Stowell.
Guests: Bill Theriault, Walter Washington

Minutes: The minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by Don Amoroso, with handouts distributed. Don Amoroso declared that the commission's paperwork must be submitted to the SHPO expeditiously. He noted that our insurance bill fell \$370, but our utility bill exceeded the projected amount. The money for the Poor House has never been decided upon; the site will be re-platted. John Allen stated that we will get started on painting the Chapel. Our projected cash balance includes the \$8,000 from the SHPO. Don Amoroso pointed out that we need to resolve the issue of who owns the Poor House. We have got to get the documentation on the \$8,000 to the SHPO. John Allen reminded us that the Burr Farm event is scheduled for June 21. Carmen Creamer passed on to the members her new cell phone number (703-939-1266). Walter Washington asked John Allen what he recommended on the Poor House, remarking that the ball had been dropped. John Allen said that we can spend \$2,500 on the Chapel, starting on Monday. \$10,600 has been budgeted for Peter Burr. Walter Washington inquired whether there has been any more research on the Poor House, which was responded to by Bill Theriault and Carmen Creamer. Bill Theriault noted there has been no research since the National Register nomination - the documentation is clear to around 1970. Carmen Creamer and John Allen talked about the roof on the Poor House, the condition of which is all right. Bill Theriault reported that he is returning the money for microfilm at WVU because they don't know what is on the film. Carmen Creamer noted that they do have a box list. She then moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, which was seconded by Kip Stowell and passed unanimously.

Peter Burr Farm (Spring House): Kip Stowell passed around photos from the 1930's and 1970's or '80's and drawings of the Spring House, and described them. Bill Theriault observed that there is not much of the original fabric remaining, and that none of the doors found fit the dimensions of the building. A discussion of the structure and its vicinity followed. Bill Theriault said it would be good to have something compatible with the period ca. 1890 interpreted, noting that archaeology could answer some questions. John Allen said the overall estimate is some \$14,000; Don Amoroso added that we will get \$15,500 next year. Kip Stowell remarked that framing has to go up. There was a discussion of posthole archaeology, noting the trade-off between saving evidence and keeping the structure from collapsing. Regarding which should receive priority, the Spring House or the Poor House, there was a general feeling that the Spring House should be done now. John Allen thanked Kip Stowell for his work. Carmen Creamer moved that we approve the Spring House contract for \$14,500, which was seconded by Don Amoroso and passed.

Community Impact Statement (CIS): Jon Allen reported that the commission received an invitation to comment on a cell phone tower proposal for Prospect Avenue in Harpers Ferry (but in the county, rather than the town). This is for a monopole behind one tank. Concern was

expressed about where it could be seen from, and a general agreement that we should ask for balloon tests. Carmen Creamer urged that there be a check as to whether the site was in a National Park Service zone.

National Register: The Orndorff-Cross Farm was nominated under A and C, which was followed by a discussion of the house. The property is on the border of Jefferson and Berkeley Counties. Kip Stowell remarked that “It’s a nice house.” The nomination was approved.

Upcoming Events: There will be a Planning Commission hearing, which will be broken into various nights. We will need to know when it occurs. Allegheny Power has asked the county for any mapping it has done. This is in connection with a possible new power line proposal. John Allen has requested to meet with them, at which time he would show them where the historic resources are. The line will probably go through Scrabble, and may go across Antietam Battlefield.