

Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission

July 18, 2012

Members Present: John Allen, Martin Burke, Carmen Creamer, Michael Musick. Guests: Frances Morgan (Jefferson County Commission liaison), Bill Theriault.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting (taken by Eric Jenkins) were distributed. Acceptance was moved by John Allen, seconded by Carmen Creamer, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented by John Allen, with handouts distributed. We are only 18 days into the fiscal year. There have been only a few minor expenditures since our previous meeting. We may receive back the \$200 expended on the Cement Mill. Although the bread bakers have gotten money, we have not yet received it. The bread baking money is co-mingled in our accounts. Acceptance of the treasurer's report was moved by Carmen Creamer, seconded by Michael Musick, and passed.

Cement Mill Update: Martin Burke reported that he and Walter Washington went to the courthouse and settled the boundaries. We are giving away about 1/4 acre to landowners. We will have a final plat in two weeks. The next task is a conservation easement. By next meeting we should have a draft of the National Register nomination, which is due in August. Burke has met with the group that does the annual Packhorse Ford River Trek (second Sunday in September), and described the walk. He has been in conversation with Ed Dunleavy. After discussion it was decided to have the September HLC meeting at the Cement Mill site on Wednesday, September 19, the 150th anniversary of the engagement there, 20 minutes before a 5 to 7 p.m. commemoration. We will request a National Park Service interpreter for the occasion. A bus will take people from Shepherd University to the location, and there will be free refreshments. Frances Morgan noted that local fruit will be in season.

Jefferson County Courthouse: John Allen was asked by Bill Polk about the color for the columns, and stated he doesn't have a preference (they have all been sand-blasted). Carmen Creamer said that green (the previous color) would be the safest bet. Allen was asked about decking material; he asked for prices. The county committee wants the front painted while the scaffolding is in place, and say they can only afford a quick scrape and paint. Costs are not yet available. Various problems were discussed, including the lead paint issue. Allen has sent an e-mail to the county committee with his views.

Peter Burr Farm: Burke reported that the Potomac Valley Audubon Society will visit the farm in November. A children's event would be held November 10, where they would walk into the wetlands. There were no objections. The Bike Virginia event had between 1,800 and 2,000 participants visiting the farm for lunch. The house was staffed by Reliving History, and the event was very successful. They may send us a check, and come back every five years. Allen reported that we will receive \$7,600 for Fairs and Festivals. Burke said we've upped our expenditures at the farm, and listed various items. We can spend \$7,600 in six months for PBF improvements and activities. Burke moved that we do so, which was seconded by Creamer. The motion passed. Eric Jenkins has given us a list of what AHA wants, which was discussed. Bill Theriault gave his

views. We will ask how much Reliving History wants. Frances Morgan asked about markers on the bike path. We received a complaint about where the iron federal marker is located. More historical markers are wanted, and Burke has been working on this. We want temporary signs for event days. Burke has a list of historic signs to be put up.

Snow Hill/Poor Farm: Burke reported that there was some storm damage. We have contacted a contractor to make repairs.

West Virginia GeoExplorer Project: Bill Theriault reported that he has a draft memorandum of understanding for a grant for the digital publication of projects for the HLC and GeoExplorer Project. Morgan suggested that a lawyer look it over. Theriault is working on a memorandum of understanding on a second grant with Shepherd and the West Virginia Geologic and Economic Development Agency on using Shepherd resources. The website is being added to. Things are going very well. Burke noted that there was an article in the *Martinsburg Journal* on the WV GeoExplorer that was generally accurate.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia Conference: Michael Musick read the report of Danielle LaPresta, our representative, on what she has done and how much she has expended. Burke would like to know what exhibit space will be available for us, and whether we would have access to internet Wi-Fi. Burke noted that this September 27-29 conference is only a week from our Cement Mill activity.

Site Reviews: There was discussion of a request for comment regarding a cell tower, and there was discussion of whether the site was in Harpers Ferry. Musick will look into it. There was discussion of the expansion of the Millville quarry.

Upcoming Events, Miscellaneous: Morgan noted that there has been a proposal to create a unified contract to digitize county records. Theriault said it would be nice to coordinate this with WV GeoExplorer. Morgan noted that at tomorrow's county commission meeting Walt Pellish will suggest taking the \$100,000 set aside for the Shepherdstown Battlefield and using the money for other purposes. Burke said we would like to see it used for easements for farmland protection. Morgan does not want the money used for something far different than the original purpose, which was followed by discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m. The next HLC meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 15, 2012, at our usual site, the Charles Town Visitors Center on North George Street.