

## Minutes of Jefferson County Landmarks Commission Meeting

November 18, 2009

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting were distributed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Martin Burke, seconded by Don Amoroso, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Don Amoroso read a statement summarizing his report. There has been no income since the last report. We have spent \$3,755.84, of which \$3,500 was for a tractor for the Friends of Peter Burr. We have a bill for \$220 for wrought iron brackets for the courthouse. Don, John Allen, and Carmen Creamer discussed this. Don noted that we pay \$30 per month to maintain our website. Following a discussion of expenses, John Allen pointed out that we now have a chance to put all of the survey materials and Bill Theriault's donated materials online. Michael Musick moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed.

**Viewshed Survey:** We have a new contact at Scenic America. She will send out the new contract for the survey.

**Peter Burr Farm:** John Allen asked David Gibney and Bart Wheatley for prices on window work. In the course of examining the windows Bart found that the wall was bowed out. John asked Bart to secure the wall, which he has done. There is concern lest fixing the wall remove original material, but it is stabilized for the time being. Bill Theriault and John Allen discussed consultation with structural engineers. We will have several people look at the framing problem. We have a bill for \$1,200 for securing the wall. Dave Gibney's bid for the windows was \$5,375; thus far Bart has not submitted his bid. Bill Theriault remarked that David Gibney previously did a nice job on the north-side foundation work. Irvan Groff, from the Friends of Peter Burr, has paid for the tractor. He hasn't had time yet to move it. Cleanup is the next job. Maggie Keeler conducted an English trough workshop, sponsored by the Master Gardeners. She received a \$35 donation, plus an additional \$25 donation from a participant who especially enjoyed the workshop. The group also enjoyed Maggie's yodeling. Bill Berry announced an opening balance at the beginning of November of \$99.55. There will be a Williamsburg-style wreath-making workshop, using boxwood or yew, for \$25 per participant on November 28. There was discussion between Maggie and Martin Burke on event publicity. Don Amoroso asked whether the farm has been winterized; it has been. Joyce Cole, from Reliving History, reported that the 501C3 paperwork is almost finished. Don urged that the copy sent to the IRS be by certified mail. The 1772 Foundation has announced its grant requirements. Joyce Cole said that the sustainable food supply portion might give an opportunity to Reliving History to receive a grant, and other grants may also apply. Joyce, John Allen, and Bill Theriault discussed storm water management systems and what needs to be done in that area. Carmen Creamer pointed out that once an area is designated as wetlands it is protected.

**Ordinance:** Martin Burke moved that the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission request the Jefferson County Commission to amend the current zoning ordinance to include the historic resources section into the current zoning ordinance. This motion was seconded by Carmen Creamer and passed. Carmen noted that Jennifer Brockman should remove any language that doesn't make sense.

**Site Reviews:** Regarding speakers and signage by the railroad at the Harpers Ferry and Duffields stations, we have no jurisdiction. The new Duffields Station is not a historic structure. On the Tuscawilla Waste Water Treatment Plant, the changes proposed are also out of our jurisdiction.

**Poor Farm:** Lawyers for the church are reviewing the documents. We will sign them when they have been approved.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Data:** Martin Burke, John Allen, and Lyle Rush met and made changes previously voted on. Martin noted that we will alter our database to include maps and tax and parcel numbers of all National Register properties. John Allen noted that Bill Theriault gave a presentation on the GeoHistory project at the Shepherdstown Mens Club that generated considerable enthusiasm. Bill will be meeting with several people interested in it.

**Website:** Martin Burke reported that we have begun receiving e-mails from persons who want to be on our e-mail distribution list. He is working on updating the map on the website and on putting the data on GoogleEarth.

**Upcoming Events, Misc. :** Although Martin Burke declared there was no new PATH information, John Allen recused himself when the subject was broached. Martin then said that there is a question about whether activity has in fact stopped, which was followed by discussion that included remarks by Carmen. Martin concluded that the information is conflicting, after which John Allen returned. John Allen moved that we send a letter of support to the County Commission asking allocation of funds to the 911 addressing office for mapping and planning, which motion was seconded by Michael Musick and passed. We have a possible intern, Heather McSharry, whom Martin Burke has located. This would be a 400 hour internship. We are in conversation with her. Today we received a letter requesting a letter of support for SHPO to receive an American Battlefields Protection Grant for 15 sites, including Summit Point and Smithfield Crossing. There was discussion of Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown. There is a second request for a letter in support of a grant to map the Eastern Panhandle. These two letters should be written by January. There was consensus that we support such letters. Concerning February Landmarks Awards, John Allen asked those present to e-mail him if they have candidates.