

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
April 8th, 2026
Jefferson County Complex

Members Present: Addison Reese (Chair), Lyle Rush (Treasurer), Leigh Koonce (Secretary), David Carroll, John Henry Dale, Jack Hefestay (Commission Liaison).

Staff Present: Elizabeth Nicholson and IT Staff member.

Mrs. Reese called the meeting to order at 7:03.

No public comment was heard..

Mrs. Reese explained the Jefferson County Commission has requested that the Commission Liaison become a voting member of the JCHLC. Further, it was pointed out that by doing so, the JCHLC would have an even number of members. Mr. Koonce moved to expand the JCHLC by one member and to grant the Commission Liaison voting rights. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mrs. Reese will coordinate with the County Commission staff to begin the process of adding an additional member.

Ms. Nicholson gave an overview of the available funds through the investments with the Eastern WV Community Foundation. Mrs. Reese moved to allocate \$500 from the Peter Burr Fund at the EWVCF for repairs of the kiosk, fence, and root cellar at the Farm. Mr. Rush seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Reese moved to invoice the Jefferson County Commission for the ground penetrating radar work at the Johnstontown Cemetery. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Reese reported that the JCHLC had received no further information from the Jefferson County Planning Commission following the joint meeting. Commissioner Hefestay will follow up with Commissioner Cara Keys.

Mrs. Reese reported the IT Department indicated they did not have the necessary passwords to restore the JCHLC website, however they later discovered they did. The IT Department was working to restore the website. County Administrator Eddie Benites-LM was passing by the meeting room and appeared before the JCHLC at the request of Commissioner Hefestay. She will follow up with IT.

Mrs. Reese gave a report regarding the Osbourn Farm. There is an easement preventing metal detecting on the property. She had an appointment with the County Attorney to discuss ways to enforce this and will report back at the next meeting after further discussions. Mrs. Reese moved to have the park open by appointment only at present. Mr. Koonce seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Koonce requested permission to begin discussions with the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission about an historical designation or marker at the Sam Michaels Farm/Park. No opposition was heard.

Mr. Dale indicated the WV Ethics Commission reported there is no problem with a ground penetrating sponsorship from SPX.

Mr. Rush offered the treasurer's report and stated total assets stood at \$62,108.29. Mrs. Reese moved to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Hefestay seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Nicholson offered a report of the social media accounts for the past two months.

Ms. Nicholson offered a report of her duties as our AmeriCorps member.

Mr. Rush applied for a grant from the EWVCF to be used at the Shepherdstown Catholic Cemetery. The Shepherdstown Rotary Club will assist with an upcoming clean up.

Mrs. Reese reported the renters at the Osbourn Farm will renew their lease.

Mr. Carroll indicated a grant from Ranson was for materials to set up a handicap ramp into the building.

Mr. Carroll reported bread baking may once again happen at the Peter Burr Farm. The Plein Air workshop is upcoming, along with two tree plantings.

Mrs. Reese reported ground penetrating radar will take place before underground electric work is done at the Johnsonstown Cemetery.

Mr. Koonce offered details of the upcoming House and Garden Tour sponsored by the Shenandoah Potomac Garden Council.

Mr. Rush moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

H.S. Leigh Koonce, Secretary

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