



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678  
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968  
[www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)

MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
January 14, 2015

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA  
Ms. Morgan Devlin  
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA  
Ms. Caitlin Greeley, Statewide Planning, representing Kevin Flynn  
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Mr. Pieter N. Roos  
Mr. Clark Schoettle  
Mr. Jonathan Stevens, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ms. Ruth Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Joanna Doherty, Senior Architectural Historian  
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Principal Project Review Coordinator  
Dr. Timothy Ives, Principal Archaeologist  
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, RIDOT Reviewer  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director  
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director EDC

GUESTS

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M., Karst Hooageboom, Chairman, presiding.

### 2. Minutes of November 12, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Farzan, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2014.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) A Commission meeting schedule for 2015 was distributed. Following longstanding procedure, the Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM at The Old State House, 150 Benefit Street, Providence.

b) In December, the Congress voted to approve legislation that established the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, and President Obama has signed the legislation. Creation of this national park recognizes the significance of the Blackstone Valley in Rhode Island and Massachusetts as the birthplace of industrialization in America. The legislation also extended federal funding authorization for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Heritage Corridor was established in 1986, and for 29 years Mr. Sanderson has worked as a member of the Heritage Corridor Commission with the National Park Service to develop heritage programs in the Valley leading to its designation as a national park. Senator John Chafee led the effort to establish and maintain the Heritage Corridor, and Senator Jack Reed led the effort to create the national park with strong support from Congressman Cicilline. Senator Reed will receive special recognition at the annual statewide historic preservation conference on April 25.

c) The position of Principal Architectural Historian has been filled by the appointment of Joanna Doherty. That promotion leaves the Senior Architectural Historian position vacant. Formal requests to fill this position and the Deputy Director position will be filed soon. A request to refill the position of Senior Grants Coordinator has been approved by the State Division of Personnel, and the position notice has been posted on the RIHPHC website, applications have been received, and interviews will be scheduled for the top candidates.

d) Upcoming Commission Agenda items will include preliminary National Register consideration of the Prospect Heights public housing project (1942) in Pawtucket at the February meeting and final National Register consideration of the Anstis Greene Historic District in the Edgewood neighborhood, Cranston.

#### 4. State Historic Preservation Officer's Report

Mr. Stevens summarized his December 29, 2014 letter to Commissioners that reviewed his accomplishments over the past fifteen months. He called particular attention to the continuing need for improvements to RIHPHC digital information systems. Mr. Stevens described a recent demonstration he arranged of a GIS system that has just been implemented in New York State. Mr. Hoogebroom suggested this issue might be larger than just a RIHPHC issue and may require the involvement of the Department of Administration. Ms. Greeley reported that the Office of Statewide Planning has identified the need to incorporate historic preservation information into the statewide geographic information database.

Mr. Sanderson reported that RIHPHC and RIDOT have been working together on a GIS - digitization project for several years, with GIS technical consultants funded by the Federal Highway Administration. A GIS "beta version" has been created but needs testing. RIHPHC databases have been in the process of updating over the past year by a technician at the RI Division of Information Technology. Our databases were set up in Windows 2003, and now RIHPHC (and the rest of the State) are converting to a Windows 2010 platform. As part of this software transition, RIHPHC and DOIT are creating a revised historic properties database in that combines National Register listed properties, NR eligible properties, and NR candidate properties. This integrated database will be linked to computer records on tax credits, grants, easements, and project review. The database will connect with to the developing GIS system. The project is ongoing but is well on the way, and we expect to provide a demonstration to the Commission later in the year. Mr. Steven's interest in this project has been welcome, and he has been helpful in enlisting the attention of the Department of Administration.

The most immediate RIHPHC technology need, which is in progress, is to update the internet connection between 150 Benefit Street and the rest of the world with fiber optic cable. (In working on the GIS and database upgrades, IT technicians found it was faster to copy data to portable drives and walk over to 150 Benefit rather than to send the data electronically!) \$15,000 for installation of fiber optic cable is available from RIDOT (Federal Highway). There will be a modest annual increase in RIHPHC's cable service cost that has been approved by the State Budget Office.

Commissioners Malone and Taylor both spoke to the importance of having RIHPHC data in updated electronic formats.

Mr. Stevens also expressed his interest in strategic planning for historic preservation and he suggested that Commissioners participate in a day-long planning charette to chart future directions for the RIHPHC.

Mr. Sanderson explained that the Commission has a State Preservation Plan that the Commission and the National Park Service approved in 2012. Rick Greenwood led several Commission discussions as the plan was drafted. The next scheduled Plan revision is 2017 (five-

year planning cycle is mandated by National Park Service procedures). Managing the State Historic Preservation Plan is part of the work assignment of the RIHPHC Deputy Director, and when that position is refilled planning will be one of the position's assignments. Mr. Sanderson suggested that while a revision of the State Historic Preservation Plan is a significant undertaking, he and staff could present information about the current Plan at a future Commission meeting. He also noted that most of RIHPHC's work responds to the actions of others, such as Section 106 review of projects, tax credit project reviews, administration of State Preservation Grants, and most National Register nominations that come from owners or that come from CLG grants that the Commission has approved.

During discussion, Commissioners agreed that strategic planning is an important topic that they would like to consider. On a motion by Mr. Roos, seconded by Ms. Taylor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to request that the executive director organize a staff presentation on the State Historic Preservation Plan and present recommendations for a Commission planning process at a future Commission meeting.

#### 5. Executive Session

Chairman Hoogeboom stated that the Commission would go into executive session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1). Following the executive session, the Commission reconvened in open session. On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Devlin the Commission

VOTED to authorize the executive director to issue a letter to Attorney William Landry regarding assertions regarding Commissioner Farzan. A copy of the letter is appended to these Minutes. Mr. Farzan did not vote.

#### 6. 2015 Certified Local Government Grants

Ms. Zurier presented information about applications received for CLG grants, and she reported on the Staff's review and recommendations. A list of the applications received and Staff evaluations and recommendations is appended to these Minutes. Ms. Zurier explained that the National Park Service has not issued a funding apportionment for 2015, and that the Staff funding recommendations are estimates based on the 2014 funding apportionment. Final grant amounts will be determined once the 2015 apportionment is issued.

Mr. Roos stated that he serves on the Trinity Church Landmark Fund Committee, and he did not participate in discussion or vote on the Trinity Church grant application.

Dr. Malone stated that he has had relationships with Old Slater Mill and the Woonasquatucket River GHreenway, and he did not participate in discussion or vote on those grant applications.

Following Ms. Zurier's presentation and discussion by Commissioners, on a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Devlin, the Commission

VOTED to approve 2015 CLG grants as recommended.

**2015 Certified Local Government Grant Applications  
Ranked in order of Staff Review**

<u>Score</u>	<u>\$Requested</u>	<u>\$Suggested Award</u>	<u>Staff</u>
CRANSTON	\$14,000	\$14,000	110

**The Aberdeen Plat National Register Historic District Nomination**

Grant funds would be used to hire a consultant to prepare a National Register nomination for one of two remaining plats included in the Edgewood Neighborhood Multiple Property Listing. Aberdeen Plat (1901) is located between the Sally Greene Homestead (see below) and the Taft Estate National Register District. The City of Cranston and Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association have indicated a preference for Aberdeen if only one grant is funded.

CRANSTON	\$14,500	\$14,500	110
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**Sally Greene Homestead National Register Historic District Nomination**

Grant funds would be used to hire a consultant to prepare a National Register nomination for one of two remaining plats in in the Edgewood Neighborhood Multiple Property Listing. Sally Greene Homestead (1875) is located between Antsis Greene Estate (NR nomination in progress) and Aberdeen Plat (see above).

PROVIDENCE w/Preserve R.I.	\$10,000	\$10,000	100
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**2016 Annual Historic Preservation Conference**

This grant would fund planning and coordination of the 2016 Historic Preservation Conference (location to be determined).

EAST PROVIDENCE	\$7000	\$7000	90
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**Survey of approximately 50 structures to be designated as local historic districts**

Funds would be used to hire consultant to survey about 50 properties that are already listed on National Register, highly visible, and/or appear to be architecturally and historically significant. In addition to preparing survey sheets, the consultant would create

a spreadsheet, prepare a final report with recommendations, and convene a public meeting to discuss the possibility of historic district zoning with property owners.

HOPKINTON	\$6,000	\$6000	90
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**Property Owners' Guide - Procedures, Design Guidelines**

The Town of Hopkinton would hire a consultant to provide training to HDC members and work with HDC members and volunteers to prepare a guide for owners of property in the Hopkinton City local historic district. Guide would be similar in format to the well-received Kingston Historic District Homeowner's Guide—but tailored to Hopkinton City.

NORTH SMITHFIELD	\$250	\$250	90
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**North Smithfield Historic District Homeowner's Guide**

Town would use grant funds to print and distribute brochure for homeowners in local historic districts

PROVIDENCE	\$10,000	\$6150 (partial)	90
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**Illustration and Layout of Revised Standards & Guidelines**

City of Providence would hire a design consultant to update existing standards and guidelines booklet. Providence revised the text in 2012, but the existing publication lacks illustrations. This project would result in an expanded property owners' guide that integrates both old and new illustrations with the newly revised text.

WARWICK	\$10,000	\$0	80
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**Enhancing the Review Process in Warwick Historic Districts with More Focused Design and District Guidelines**

City would hire a consultant to review local historic district boundaries in Pawtuxet, Apponaug, and Pontiac villages and to update design standards for each district.

BRISTOL w/Bris. Hist. and Pres. Soc.	\$12,000	\$0	70
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**Pattern Book for Bristol Historic District**

This grant would fund the creation of an illustrated booklet to complement existing materials for owners of property in local historic districts. Photos and drawings from the collection of Lombard Pozzi may be used as illustrations. Pattern book would include additional information on local design traditions, commercial signage, gates/fencing, and other topics not covered extensively in existing materials.

NEWPORT	\$9412	\$0	65
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**Trinity Church Graveyard Evaluation and Preservation Plan**

Church would hire consultant to survey the existing conditions and develop preservation recommendations for the 4000 square foot graveyard that contains more than 300 burials with 224 inscriptions from 1704 to 1900. The completed project would assist Trinity Church in developing a capital campaign for their property.

NORTH KINGSTOWN w/NKCC	\$6,000	\$0	60
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**Walking Tour of Wickford Smartphone/Tablet App**

Collaboration of Town and NK Chamber of Commerce (NKCC) to hire consultant to develop tour content and design smartphone/tablet app for walking tour of historic Wickford. Tour would be hosted by NKCC.

PROVIDENCE w/RICH, RIHS, etc.	\$4950	\$0	50
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**Making and Remaking: Moving Through Rhode Island's History of Innovators, Disruptors, and Agents of Change along the Woonasquatucket Watershed**

Grant funds would be used to hire a consultant to develop a digital tour along the Woonasquatucket River in Providence using the "Rhode Tour" format used by the R.I. Council for the Humanities, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities, and R.I. Historical Society for other sites around the state. The tour would use "Curatescape" software developed by Cleveland State University and National Endowment for the Humanities.

COVENTRY	\$15,000	\$0	40
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**Standards & Guidelines for Historic Properties for the Town of Coventry**

Town would hire consultant to prepare standards and guidelines for properties in local historic district—and for properties under consideration for historic district zoning (4 National Register districts and 13 properties individually listed on National Register).

PAWTUCKET w/Old Slater Mill Assoc. eligible	\$10,000	\$0	not
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**The Jenks Settlement and Pawtucket's Early Ironworks Industry**

Old Slater Mill Association would use funds to develop and create educational materials in about the story of Joseph Jenks Jr. and Pawtucket's early iron industry. Products to include tour script, brochures, rack cards, interpretive training, and translation of materials into Spanish and Portuguese.

Total Estimate of CLG funds:	\$57,900
Total amount of awards:	<u>\$57,900</u>
Unexpended:	\$ 0

#### 7. 2015 State Preservation Grants Regulations

Ms. Zurier presented information about the SPG regulations adopted by the RIHPHC in 2005. With the approval of the Arts & Culture bond issue in the 2014 election, RIHPHC is responsible for awarding \$5 million in grants to historic buildings used as museums and public historic sites. Ms. Zurier explained recommended revisions and amendments to the 2005 regulations. One goal of changes to the regulations is to align the historic preservation grants program with similar cultural facilities grants administered by the RI Stat Council on the Arts. In accordance with State procedures, the revised draft regulations will be reviewed by the Department of Administration and will be published for public comment prior to final approval by vote of the RIHPHC Commissioners.

During discussion, Commissioners considered the grants schedule, several amendments to the 2005 regulations, and the maximum (\$150,000) and minimum (\$8,000) grant amounts. On a motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Ms. Taylor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to authorize publication of the draft regulations for public comment.

8. Other Business: There was no other business.

9. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday December 10, 2014 at 9:30 AM.

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



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## 2015 RIHPHC COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for 2015 will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM at the Old State House, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI. The agenda will be posted one week before the meeting. Meetings are open to the public, and the location is accessible. Anyone who requires the assistance of an interpreter or has other special needs should contact the Commission at least 48 hours in advance so they may be accommodated.

**January 14, 2015**

**July 8, 2015**

**February 11, 2015**

**August 12, 2015**

**March 11, 2015**

**September 9, 2015**

**April 8, 2015**

**October 14, 2015**

**May 13, 2015**

**November 11, 2015**

**June 10, 2015**

**December 9, 2015**

**April 25, 2015: Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference to be held in Chepachet, RI.**