



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

MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
May 11, 2016

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman
Ms. Lisa Lawless representing Janet Coit, Director DEM
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Mr. Kevin Nelson, representing the Associate Director of the Division of Planning
Mr. Pieter N. Roos
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Clark Schoettle
Ms. Ruth Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Timothy Ives, Principal Archaeologist
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, Senior Reviewer RIDOT Projects
Ms. Katherine Jurczyk, Senior Grants Coordinator
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Coordinator
Ms. Elizabeth Warburton, Senior Architectural Historian

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Mr. Darin Early, COO, Commerce RI
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Vacant

GUESTS

Mayor William Murray, Cumberland
Jonathan Stevens, Planning Director, Cumberland
Joshua O'Neill, Planner, Cumberland
Denise Mudge, Chair, Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Asso
Cornelius DeBoer, AIA

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

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

Kevin Nelson was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Nelson, Supervising Planner, is the representative of the State Division of Planning.

2. Minutes of March 9, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2016.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) The annual Statewide Preservation Conference was held in Wickford on April 30. Attendance was about 500, the program and speakers were excellent, many interesting tours highlighted South County historic places, the weather was outstanding, and Sarah Zurier, Janet Balletto, RIHPHC staff, and dozens of volunteers all did a superb job making the Conference its usual great success.

b) Senate and House budget hearing were held for the RIHPHC budget on April 12 and April 14. Strong testimony was presented to describe RIHPHC's work and to ask that the Governor's recommendation for a staff reduction of one not be approved. No further information has been received. The budget typically is voted in early June.

c) The Deepwater Wind project has encountered significant archaeological resources in the area where electrical cables are being buried. Archaeological investigations early in the project had been completed when a shift in the alignment of the cable trench resulted in unanticipated discoveries. RIHPHC staff archaeologists are working closely with the Army Corps of Engineers, National Grid, the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and the Wampanoag Tribe.

d) 2016 Rhody Award nominations for historic preservation projects are available. The nomination deadline is June 3, 2016. The Commission will consider Rhody Award selections at the June 8 meeting.

e) A Providence Business News interview with Mr. Sanderson was distributed.

4. State Preservation Grants Report

a) Ms. Katy Jurczyk reported on the status of 2015 SPG projects:

- A training session for grant recipients was held in March and was well-attended. Grant recipients were provided with flash drives containing training materials, required paperwork, report templates, and a grant procedures manual.
- Funding Agreements have been signed for 15 of 25 awarded projects (remaining grantees will enter into agreements by end of June).
- First grant disbursements are expected in July.

b) Ms. Jurczyk reported on the Calendar of the 2016 SPG grant selection process:

- Applications to be made available on the RIHPHC website on Friday, May 27.
- Applications will be due by 4:00 PM, Friday, August 19.
- Staff review meetings in September.
- Review Panel meetings in October and November.
- Funding recommendations presented for vote at Commission Meeting Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

c) Ms. Jurczyk reported on a request by the Town of Cumberland to amend the grant voted by RIHPHC on December 9, 2015 to separate exterior and interior restoration work at Franklin Farmhouse into a two-phase project and to apply the entire grant to phase one.

- The Commission voted in December to award the Town of Cumberland \$150,000 towards the rehabilitation of the Farmhouse at Franklin Farm.
- The grant project described in the Town's application is "the full rehabilitation and re-use of the historic farmhouse."
- Commission staff drafted a Scope of Work that includes both exterior and interior rehab at a total cost of \$497,816 (\$150,000 grant share; \$347,816 town share).
- The Town has objected to interpreting the grant as anything more than Phase One of a two-phase project and requested a reduced Scope of Work (exterior restoration only) and smaller budget (\$150,000 SPG grant and \$150,000 Town match).
- The Town states it is committed to completing the full rehabilitation project in the future, including the interior improvements phase, "as soon as practicable."

Ms. Jurczyk noted that the SPG Program rules adopted by the RIHPHC require that SPG projects be open to the public; in practice this rule is interpreted to mean that upon completion of the SPG-funded work the historic building will be open to the public and qualify as a museum, cultural arts center, or public historic site. Cumberland's grant application stated that the Farmhouse is currently not open or used by the public due to its deteriorated state. If the extensive exterior and interior rehabilitation described in the Application were completed, Franklin Farmhouse could meet the program requirement for public use; but if only exterior rehabilitation were completed, the requirement could not be met. Although the Town has stated it would plan to complete the needed interior rehabilitation work in the future, breaking the

project into two phases (exterior and interior) would mean that when phase one was completed and SPG grant funds had been fully spent, the project would not meet the requirement of being open to the public.

Following Ms. Jurczyk's report, Cumberland Town Planning Director Jonathan Stevens asked to speak. He stated that Cumberland only has \$150,000 available for the project at this time, and he requested that the Commission agree to reduce the project to a total budget of \$300,000 (\$150,000 in SPG funds and \$150,000 in Town funds) in order to complete exterior rehabilitation work. He said that he personally worked with Governor Chafee to create the bond issue that funded these State Preservation Grants, and he was sure that Cumberland's project meets the intention of the program.

Cumberland Mayor William Murray sent a letter dated April 25, 2016 which is attached to these Minutes, and he also addressed the Commission. He thanked the Commission for awarding the Franklin Farm grant and said he is trying to lead his town to preserve its historical sites. He pledged his personal commitment to eventually renovating and opening Franklin Farmhouse for public and educational use, and stated that if he is re-elected "this will get completed."

During discussion, Commissioner Lawless asked about damage to the asphalt roof which was replaced just seven years ago in 2009 and is relatively new? The Town's architect Corrie DeBoer stated the roof was damaged when some pipes and vents were removed. He said the plan is to replace the roof with historically appropriate wood shingles.

Commissioner Abbott inquired if the interior is accessible now? Ms. Denise Mudge, Chair of Franklin Farm Preservation Association, stated that the house has no operable plumbing, heat, or electricity. However, she said sometimes when people are visiting the farm they are allowed to walk through the house.

Commissioner Malone said he thought the application that the Town filed was flawed because it referred to both exterior and interior work but only committed to funding less than the entire project. He noted that Franklin Farm is an important historic resource.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Executive Director had a recommendation? Mr. Sanderson stated that the Franklin Farm application was reviewed and evaluated on the basis that the entire project would be completed and that public access and public use would result. He suggested that if the Town cannot commit the funding necessary to complete the entire project at this time, RIHPHC could reserve the \$150,000 in SPG grant funds for the next year or two while the Town proceeds with exterior repairs. Hopefully the Town would be able to commit additional funds in order to match the grant funds to complete interior rehabilitation and provide public access and use.

Commissioner Schoettle said he feels even very limited public access meets the minimum requirement of the grant program rules. He suggested additional grant funding in the future

might fund the interior restoration.

Commission Chair Hooeboom emphasized that all grant projects must meet the minimum program rules for eligibility.

Commissioner Schoettle questioned whether historic interior features survive? Mr. DeBoer said he feels the historic interior can still be read, except for the remodeled kitchen and bathroom.

Commissioner Roos felt the ability to see the historic exterior was most important in the context of the whole Franklin Farm property.

Commission Malone expressed support for the historic preservation project, and he felt that minimal visitation meets “the letter of the law.”

Commissioner Lawless questioned whether the estimate of \$200,000 really would be sufficient to complete all of the needed interior work. She suggested including some interior repairs in the first phase of work. She also suggested that the Town should get bid estimates and should find a way to provide public access.

At the conclusion of discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Farzan, seconded by Commissioner Abbott, the Commission

VOTED to amend the Franklin Farm grant project scope of work to eliminate interior rehabilitation. Voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Abbott, Farzan, Hooeboom, Malone, Morenon, Roos, Schoettle, Taylor. Recorded as not voting were Commissioners Nelson, Lawless, and Sanderson.

5. National Register of Historic Places

Final Approval: Second Battle of Nipsachuck Battlefield Historic District, North Smithfield

Dr. Ives presented information about the property. Under Criterion A the Second Battle of Nipsachuck is significant in the overall conduct of King Philip’s War because it marked the end of organized resistance to the colonists in Narragansett Country. It is also significant as a demonstration of the English colonial forces’ acquired mastery of military tactics, including the use of combined English and Indian forces and mounted troops, which enabled them to reverse earlier losses and bring the war to a successful close. Under Criterion B, the battle also marked the death of Sunk Squaw Quaiapen, a major figure in Narragansett society and the last of the

ruling Narragansett sachems to be killed in combat during the war. The battlefield also possesses significance under Criterion D for its potential to further elucidate the nature of the battle, and the evolution of the tactics and materiel of King Philip's War. In addition, further archaeology has the potential to yield significant information on Native use of interior lands in the Narragansett basin before as well as after European arrival, and the particular role that Nipsachuck played as a place of habitation, agriculture, ceremony and refuge.

The battlefield is in an upland area of irregular topography shaped by glacial action and characterized by a variety of smooth-topped hills, swampy areas and limited areas of level ground, drained by the northernmost stretch of the Woonasquatucket River. The hills are typically forested, as are the swamps.

An early deed refers to Nipsachuck and the "Indian grownd." The locale was also a place where Native American residents had planting fields, where they cleared areas of fertile soil for their crops. Apart from the planting fields and meadows, it is likely that the majority of the landscape was wooded. However, the ability of the Connecticut forces to conduct a mounted attack around Cat Hill also indicates that the vegetative cover here was relatively open or, if wooded, free of a dense understory.

Following King Philip's War, the appearance of the landscape here was altered, as the colonial residents harvested trees and cleared additional lands for farming. The battlefield area appears to have remained relatively undisturbed into the twentieth century.

The Second Battle of Nipsachuck (Battle of Mattity Swamp) on July 2, 1676 was the culminating action of Connecticut's six-month campaign against the Narragansett during the latter half of King Philip's War (late December 1675 – early July 1676). It began one hour after dawn when a force of 300 Connecticut dragoons (mounted infantry) and 100 Mohegan and Pequot allies led by Major John Talcott enveloped and attacked the village of the Narragansett Sunk Squaw Quaiapen, killing and capturing over 170 men, women, and children in the three-hour battle. Though historically referred to as a battle, the military asymmetry between attackers and defenders presents a scene that would be considered a massacre according to modern

sensibilities. It was carried out according to a carefully coordinated plan involving a simultaneous multi-headed attack by the dragoons and their Native allies. Known to be the only horse-mounted attack of King Philip's War, it represented a far more devastating approach than the English had taken in the early months of the war.

For the Narragansett, the battle marked both an extensive loss of lives and, notably, the death of Quaiapen, the last of the principal Narragansett sachems to be killed or captured by the English. Her death effectively ended Narragansett resistance in the war and evidence indicates it may have also marked the suppression of a Narragansett attempt to seek peace with the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

During discussion, Dr. Malone complimented the fine field work of the archaeologist investigators and cited the nomination for its excellent research and analysis. He also offered several suggestions for additions to the bibliography. On a motion by Ms. Lawless, seconded by Mr. Roos, the Commission unanimously

VOTED final approval for the nomination.

6. Other Business: There was no other business.
7. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday June 8, 2016 at 9:30 AM.
8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer