



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
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MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
June 8, 2016

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA  
Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA  
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  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Mr. Pieter N. Roos  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Clark Schoettle  
Ms. Ruth Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Joanna Doherty, Principal Architectural Historian  
Ms. Virginia Hesse, Principal Historical Architect  
Dr. Timothy Ives, Principal Archaeologist  
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, Senior Reviewer RIDOT Projects  
Ms. Katherine Jurczyk, Senior Grants Coordinator  
Mr. Glenn Modica, Senior Project Review Coordinator  
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Coordinator  
Ms. Elizabeth Warburton, Senior Architectural Historian

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Darin Early, COO, Commerce RI  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
Vacant

GUESTS

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Minutes of May 11, 2016

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

VOTED to approve the Minutes of May 11, 2016.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) A letter dated June 1, 2016 was distributed from Denise Mudge, President of Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Association in which she describes current public access and use of the Franklin Farmhouse. The original grant application submitted to RIHPHC in August 2015 stated: "The farmhouse at Franklin Farm is currently not in use by the general public due to its deteriorated state and need for extensive rehabilitation.... Currently, all ... activities occur outside due to the inability to use the farmhouse in its current condition." Based on the new information contained in the June 1, 2016 letter (copy is appended to these Minutes), the described use meets the minimum requirements for eligibility to receive a State Preservation Grant.

b) Up-to-date information about State Historic Preservation Tax Credits was distributed. The 2013 program has leveraged total investment of \$280,608,197. The 2013 legislation includes a sunset provision on new tax credit contracts after June 30, 2016. In the last two months, RIHPHC has received 12 new project applications and staff have completed review of 9 and expect to complete the remaining three by June 10. The total amount of tax credit projects currently in progress is \$545,881,404 (including 2013 contracts, 2008 contracts, and federal projects).

c) Sarah Zurier distributed a list of State Preservation Grant Review Panel members recommended for appointment. Review of SPG applications is time consuming; the work of the Review Panel relieves RIHPHC Commissioners from this task, and it provides an opportunity to broaden the review process. RIHPHC Commissioners are welcome to read and submit comments on any or all of the applications. Final review and approval of SPG projects will be decided by the Commission at its December 14, 2016 meeting, and staff will provide periodic reports between September and December. On a motion by Mr. Farzan, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to appoint

1. Cecelia Hallahan AIA, Architect, RI-DOA Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (East Greenwich/Statewide)
2. Helen Johnson, Historic District Commission staff, City of Newport (Newport)

3. Keith Lescarbeau, owner, Abcore Restoration (Narragansett)
4. Ronald Onorato, Honors Professor of Art History, University of Rhode Island (Newport, South Kingstown)
5. Randy Rosenbaum, Executive Director, RISCA (Cumberland, statewide)
6. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director, RIHPHC (Providence, statewide)
7. Lori Urso, Executive Director, Slater Mill (Smithfield/Pawtucket)
8. Karen Jessup, Board Member, Preserve Rhode Island (East Providence, Statewide)
9. Ed Robinson, President, Foster Preservation Society (Foster)

#### 4. State “Rhody” Awards for Historic Preservation

Ms. Zurier reported that RIHPHC staff and Preserve Rhode Island staff have reviewed a large number of award nominations and presented information about the following recommended award selections:

Downing Award for Volunteer Service: Dave Kelleher, East Providence  
Williamson Award for Professional Service: Robert Foley, Newport  
Tyson Award for Craftsmanship: Andrew Panciotti, Providence  
Homeowner Award: Dylan Peacock for 211 Congress St, Providence  
Project Award: Bristol Art Museum  
Project Award: Elizabeth Webbing, Central Falls  
Project Award: Ashton Village, Cumberland  
Project Award: Washington Bridge Linear Park, East Providence-Providence  
Project Award: Arnold Building  
Project Award: Earle Warehouse, Providence  
Project Award: Heaton + Cowing Mill

Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Taylor, the Commission

VOTED to approve the recommended awards. The following Commissioners did not vote on award recipients with which they are connected: Mr. Abbott, Mr. Roos, and Mr. Schoettle.

#### 5. Report on Archaeological Discoveries on Block Island

Dr. Ives presented information on archaeology that has been conducted for the Deepwater Wind project on Block Island. A portion of the route of a major electrical cable from the off-shore wind turbines to the Block Island Power Company runs through the Great Salt Pond Archaeological District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Following Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigations of the route, Phase 3 data recovery archaeology was conducted for a portion of the Harbor Pond Site within the archaeological district. Archaeologists predicted and evidence indicated that the site is a Woodland Period coastal site approximately two to three thousand years old. However, a surprising discovery was artifacts from the Laurentian Tradition dating from occupation a thousand years earlier. At this time the site was likely a seasonal base in a freshwater environment. The site shows a dense artifact distribution as the result of repeated occupation over quite a long period of time. There is a

diversity of artifact types, including stone tools, faunal remains, and post molds indicative of the construction of structures.

After the planned Phase 3 data recovery was completed, in the spring of 2016 a realignment of the cable route was required by unexpected issues with waterlines in the area planned for the electrical cable trench. The realignment required additional excavation in areas not previously examined for archaeology and resulted in unanticipated archaeological discoveries during construction. The Deepwater Wind project was stopped in accordance with federal and state cultural resource regulations and permits. RIHPHC and the Army Corps of Engineers ordered that further data recovery should be carried out by the Public Archaeology Laboratory on behalf of Deepwater Wind and National Grid. The Narragansett Indian Tribe filed for a federal court restraining order against the project which the court denied. The court found that the cultural resource evaluation and mitigation measures fully meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.

When the additional excavation and archaeology resumed after a six-week hiatus, new archaeological findings indicated the presence of a third, even older, occupation of the site dating to the Middle Archaic Period, or about 6,000 to 7,500 years ago. At this time, the site would have had an inland location on an upland ridge of higher ground near fresh water ponds during a time of post-glacial rising sea level. This new information ranks the Harbor Pond Site among the most ancient, repeatedly occupied sites in southern New England. The survival of these early remains should be protected by extraordinary preservation measures and suggests that other unexcavated early features may be present on Block Island.

Following Dr. Ives' presentation, Commissioners expressed great interest in the discoveries and supported efforts to preserve the Harbor Pond Site. Commissioners also recognized the effective work of Dr. Ives and Senior Archaeologist Charlotte Tayler in carrying cultural resource review and management of these very significant archaeological sites.

6. Other Business: There was no other business.
7. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday July 13, 2016 at 9:30 AM.
8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer