



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND STATE REVIEW BOARD
October 16, 2017 10:30 am

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Marisa Angell Brown
Dr. Tripp Evans
Mr. Michael Hebert
Ms. Tanya Kelley
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Ms. Martha Werenfels, AIA

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Acting Executive Director

GUESTS

none

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 A.M. by Mr. Emidy.

2. Board Member Introductions

Mr. Emidy welcomed the State Review Board (the Board) members and explained the circumstances behind the splitting-off of the State Review Board from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC). He explained that the

primary purpose of the Board is to review preliminary and final nominations of properties to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and to vote whether or not the State Historic Preservation Officer should submit final nominations to the National Park Service for listing.

The eight members of the Board present at the meeting introduced themselves and briefly recounted their professional experience.

Mr. Emidy stated that he would send an email to Board members requesting a copy of their curriculum vitae for RIHPHC files.

3. Election of Board Chair and Secretary

An election was held for Chair and Secretary of the Board.

For Chair, Dr. Malone nominated Dr. Onorato, and Dr. Evans seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Dr. Onorato accepted the nomination and was elected by unanimous vote.

Dr. Onorato assumed the chair.

For Secretary, Ms. Werenfels nominated Ms. Kelley and Dr. Brown seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Ms. Kelley accepted the nomination and was elected by unanimous vote.

4. Discussion: Procedure for review of preliminary and final National Register of Historic Places nominations

Mr. Emidy explained that the Board will review preliminary information on properties that are proposed for National Register nomination. RIHPHC staff will present information submitted by others and supplemented by staff research. The Board will then be asked to vote approval or rejection of preparation of a National Register nomination for the property. Approval by the Board is not formal approval of the eligibility of the property for listing in the National or State Register of Historic Places, but rather an endorsement of perceived eligibility based on the information presented.

The Board will also review final nominations for listing in the National Register. These nominations, prepared most often by professional consultants, will have been edited by RIHPHC staff prior to presentation to the Board. Draft nominations will be available on the RIHPHC website at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which they are presented. RIHPHC staff will make the presentations at the Board meetings. The Board is encouraged to offer input on the nomination document at the meeting. The Board will be asked to vote on whether or not the State Historic Preservation Officer should forward the

nomination to the National Park Service for consideration.

At the following meeting of the Commission, a member of the Board or the staff representative will introduce the Board's actions for comment. Condensed presentations on each property will be made by staff for the Commission members' information. The Commission will vote whether to confirm the Board's recommendations for submittal to the NPS or will remand the nomination to the Board for further consideration.

5. Discussion: State Review Board schedule

The Board members discussed when they are available to meet. Mr. Emidy stated that there were only eight preliminary nominations and eight final nominations reviewed at Commission meetings over the past 12 months, and opined that meeting every other month should be sufficient. He stated that, at this point, there is a small backlog of properties awaiting review because of the separation of the Board from the Commission and uncertainty around the schedule. Consensus was reached that the first Monday of alternating months at 9:30am would be the most acceptable schedule. Because the first Monday in November was only a little more than two weeks away, the next meeting date was set at December 4th. Mr. Emidy stated that he will send out a calendar for 2018 meetings to the Board members.

Ms. Werenfels asked whether the Board could perform site visits to properties proposed for Board review or whether that constitutes a meeting of the Board under State Open Meetings law. Mr. Emidy said that he would look into the question.

6. Discussion: State Review Board Bylaws

Mr. Emidy reported that, per NPS regulations, a State Review Board should have bylaws. He has searched the RIHPHC server and files and has been unable to locate any copies of bylaws from when the Board operated within the body of Commission meetings or when it was a separate entity. He had hoped that Mr. Sanderson would be present to speak about the bylaws that the Board had operated under in the past. He stated that he would speak with Mr. Sanderson and continue to look for existing bylaws, which, the Board understood, would likely need to be updated or possibly rewritten.

7. Other Business

Ms. Kelley asked if the staff can prepare a fact sheet about the National Register process for Board members. Mr. Emidy answered in the affirmative. He also offered to do a brief presentation about the basics of the National Register program and how that pertains to the Board. It was determined that he will do this prior to the next Board meeting. The presentation will focus on nominating criteria and assessing integrity of the resource(s).

8. Next regular meeting date: Monday, December 4, 2017 at 9:30 AM.

9. Adjourn: On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Kelley, the Board

VOTED to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



Jeffrey D. Emdy
Acting Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer