



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
December 13, 2017

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Dr. Tripp Evans
Dr. Morgan Grefe
Ms. Tanya Kelley
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Clark Schoettle
Ms. Lucie Searle
Mr. John Smith
Ms. Ruth Taylor
Vacant

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin L. Abney, Chair of the House Finance Committee
Ms. Janet Coit, Director, DEM
Mr. William J. Conley, Jr., Chair of the Senate Finance committee
Mr. Darin Early, President and Chief Operating Officer, Commerce RI
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Mr. Kevin Nelson, representing the Associate Director of the Division of Planning

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Rosemary Carreiro, Fiscal Aide
Ms. Joanna Doherty, Principal Architectural Historian
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Deputy Director
Ms. Katherine Pomplun, Senior Grants Coordinator
Ms. Elizabeth Warburton, Senior Architectural Historian
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Coordinator

GUESTS

Carrie Taylor, Preserve Rhode Island
Shanna Vecchio-Schubert, Senate Finance

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 A.M., Ms. Taylor, Chair, presiding.

2. Minutes of November 8, 2017

On a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Kelley, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2017.

3. Acting Executive Director's Report

- a) Mr. Emidy reported that the State Review Board (Board) held its first meeting to review properties on December 4th. Four properties were presented – one final and three preliminary approval requests. The normal procedure is that at the Commission meeting that follows, staff members will make brief presentations about each property that the Board reviewed and the Commission will be asked to accept the Board's recommendations or remand the nomination to the Board for corrections or clarification, however, since the December Commission meeting agenda is intended to be solely for State Preservation Grants, the Board's recommendations from December will be reviewed at the January Commission meeting.
- b) Mr. Emidy reported on the parking situation at the Roger Williams Memorial. They have changed their parking guidelines and have yet to figure out the availability for our needs. He will keep the Commissioners updated as he finds out more.

4. Report: Executive Director Search Committee

Ms. Taylor reported that the Executive Director Search Committee will meet in executive session immediately following the Commission meeting, to discuss the merits of applications received thus far. At this point, approximately ten of the applicants appear to meet the minimum qualifications for the position.

Mr. Evans asked whether the applicants will make presentations to the Committee. Ms. Taylor stated that the Committee has not yet established what the interview process will entail. Ms. Searle stated that, when the Providence Preservation Society has interviewed for its executive director position, it has brought applicants in for multiple days to meet active participants in the community, board members, etc. Mr. Smith asked if there is a budget for bringing applicants in

for interviews. Ms. Taylor replied that she understands that those types of expenses will come out of the RIHPHC budget, and Mr. Sanderson added that the Committee needs to look into that further. Ms. Taylor stated that the state Human Resources department will provide a Skype setup if it is needed.

Ms. Searle asked if there is a goal for and end date to the search. Ms. Taylor replied that there is not a meaningful one, that it would be great to close the posting by the end of the year, but that we are not likely to make an offer to anyone before March.

5. Approval of modification to 2015 State Preservation Grant

Katherine Pomplun reported that the American-French Genealogical Society has requested an increase in funding for their 2015 State Preservation Grant project. AFGS was awarded \$111,403 towards a \$222,8066 total project in the 2015 SPG round for ADA improvements at their Woonsocket headquarters, including the installation and an elevator and construction of a new exterior entry. AFGS conducted a competitive sealed bid process in November to procure a general contractor; they received eight bids. The lowest qualified bidder bid \$292,000, or \$69,194 more than the estimated total project budget. Reasons for the bids exceeding the original budget include a change in price for the elevator itself, which cost about \$70,000 two years ago but costs about \$92,000 now, and design changes to the exterior entry, which were requested by RIHPHC to make the addition more compatible with the historic building. Ms. Pomplun noted that AFGS has been an exemplary grantee, having met all grant program requirements to-date. The staff recommends awarding AFGS additional funding in the amount of \$34,597, which will require additional 1:1 match of \$34,597, to enable them to hire the lowest qualified bidder and complete the project.

Mr. Abbott stated that this is a good building and a good project to continue funding. Dr. Morenon stated that it seems that the alternative to increasing the grant is that the project would not be carried out. Ms. Searle asked where the additional funds would come from – whether this would decrease the amount available for the 2017 grants. Ms. Pomplun responded that the additional funds were deducted from the available amount before the 2017 grants were voted on, so it does not reduce the 2017 allotment.

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

VOTED to approve the modification.

6. Approval of 2017 State Preservation Grants

Sarah Zurier presented information about the process to review and evaluate the 2016 State Preservation Grants. Ms. Zurier organized and managed the 2017 SPG grant round.

The State Preservation Grants (SPG) program is now in its eighth granting year. The program

was created by the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) as a result of a successful bond issue in 2002, extended with a second bond issue in 2004, and reauthorized by the passage of the Creative and Cultural Economy Bonds in 2014. The three bond issues have provided a total of \$11 million for the RIHPHC to distribute through a competitive grant program. Regulations for the program were adopted in 2003, revised in 2005, and revised again in 2015. The Creative and Cultural Economy Bonds also fund capital construction work at nine major arts institutions and will fund nearly \$8 million in competitive State Cultural Facilities Grants (SCFG)—a program for arts organizations that is modeled after the State Preservation Grants. RISCA's SCFG decisions were finalized on Monday, December 11th. We had three applicants in common this year.

State Preservation Grants support capital preservation work at museums, cultural art centers, and public historic sites located in historic buildings. Between 2003 and 2017, RIHPHC has received applications for nearly 300 projects. Through 2016, 120 sites in 32 cities and towns have been awarded State Preservation Grants. The \$7.6 million invested in museums, cultural arts centers, and public historic sites has leveraged more than \$100 million in total project spending.

In 2017, RIHPHC held four information sessions to promote the program—in Watch Hill (at our annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference), and in Providence, Newport, and East Greenwich. We received 27 applications for sites in 10 cities and towns.

Requests for assistance with capital preservation projects totaled \$2,955,766.80. Of these requests, two were for Small Projects that cost \$45,000 or less, and 25 were for Large Projects that cost as much as \$788,168. Small Projects are given easier matching requirements—a ratio of two parts grant to one part match, plus the opportunity to use approved materials and/or labor as match. Large Projects must raise a cash match of 1:1.

Once applications were checked for completeness, RIHPHC staff (Sarah Zurier, Joanna Doherty, Jeffrey Emidy, Virginia Hesse, Michaela Jergensen, Glenn Modica, Roberta Randall, and Elizabeth Warburton) and SPG Review Panel members (Mr. Emidy, Cecelia Hallahan, Lea Hitchen, Elizabeth Keithline, Keith Lescarbeau, Ron Onorato (Chairman), Lucie Searle, and Lori Urso) received at least a dozen applications each to review and score. Conflicts-of-interest were noted, and Review Panelists did not evaluate or comment on those applications.

Scoring measured 1) the property's architectural and historical significance; 2) the building's physical need for the project; and 3) the impact the project would have on the organization's public programs and services. Additional points were awarded to projects that were specifically included in community comprehensive plans or part of local arts or historic district zones.

Staff members met to consolidate individual scores to reflect staff consensus. Mr. Emidy represented the staff in Review Panel deliberations. The SPG Review Panel—appointed by the Commission—met for the first time on October 18. The Review Panel agreed on a consensus score for each application and asked staff to collect additional information about specific projects.

Over the next month, additional information was shared with staff and Review Panel members. Staff members ranked the applications by region and by Small and Large Projects. Staff met to consolidate individual ranks to reflect staff consensus and provide ranks for Mr. Emidy to use in SPG Review Panel deliberations. SPG Review Panel members also completed ranks for the applications. Ranking projects by region ensures that the slate of applications represents various parts of the state. Program regulations also require reviewers to prioritize the needs of significantly underserved populations.

Members of the SPG Review Panel met on December 6 to discuss the ranked applications and finalize a recommended slate of projects for the Commission. The Review Panel's recommendations include three Small Project Grants and 17 Large Project Grants for a total of \$2,024,470.96. Of the 20 proposed recipients, four applied for the first time in 2017, and 13 had received a grant before. Nine cities and towns in six regions are represented by the proposed slate of funded projects.

Mr. Abbott asked if we vote on the grant applications individually or as a group. Mr. Sanderson stated that we ask the Commissioners to vote on the slate of projects as a whole and that it is not a conflict of interest under state law to vote on "an issue of broad application."

Ms. Searle noted that she was a first-time participant on the Review Panel this year and that she gives high marks to the staff for their thoughtfulness and extreme professionalism in dealing with these projects and applicants.

Dr. Morenon asked if, since the grant awards are being publicly announced in January, the commissioners should not make the awards known. Ms. Zurier replied that we would prefer that the Commissioners not tell anyone in advance of the public announcement.

Mr. Abbott asked if landscapes and extensions of buildings like terraces are eligible for these grants. Ms. Zurier stated that they are not. Landscape elements, like fences, have been excluded in the past. Mr. Sanderson added that the General Assembly approved very specific language about eligibility. We would have to approve different language in the next grant round in order to change that.

Ms. Zurier explained that two applicant projects were deemed not eligible for the grants: the Forman Center at Rhode Island College because it is not considered to be a museum, cultural arts center, or public historic site; and the East Smithfield Neighborhood Center has been determined by the State Review Board to not be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. She stated that five additional projects were not funded: the National Museum of American Illustration at Vernon Court in Newport, the Block Island Historical Society's Woonsocket House, the Rhode Island Jewish Museum at the Sons of Jacob Synagogue in Providence, St. Mary's Church in Newport, and the Providence (Cranston Street) Armory in Providence.

Mr. Smith asked who the owner is of the Providence Armory, and Ms. Zurier replied that the state owns the building. Mr. Sanderson explained that state agencies and municipalities, as well as non-profits, are eligible for the grants, but that the state agency applications receive an extra

level of scrutiny.

Mr. Schoettle stated that Newport projects will potentially receive approximately half of the funds awarded. Ms. Zurier replied that that is a reflection of the quality of the resources and the high value of the projects. Ms. Taylor stated that it would be interesting to see the trends and numbers of large vs small applications, and applications and awards by area.

Mr. Schoettle asked why the Providence Armory project is not on the list to be awarded. Ms. Zurier responded that while some reviewers made the case that it is appropriate to fund more work on this project and that there is strong community support, others expressed concern that this is an enormous project to which the state, as owner, has not made a sufficient commitment, and there has not been a reuse idea promoted to date.

Mr. Sanderson stated that we included \$6 million in our 2018 budget request for a bond to fund three more years of SPGs at \$2 million per year after a conversation chaired by Ms. Taylor during the summer about how to plan for the future of the program. Ms. Searle asked about the timing of making changes to the program. Mr. Sanderson stated that changes would likely have to be made in May, as part of the budget process. Ms. Taylor stated that the language at that point should be broad, and Mr. Sanderson added that our regulations would contain more specific language.

During discussion, Mr. Abbott stated that he is involved with the Fort Adams project, Mr. Evans with the Providence Athenaeum project, Dr. Grefe with the Museum of Work and Culture project, and Ms. Kelley with the Newport Art Museum project and they recused themselves from discussion or voting on those projects.

On a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Kelley, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to endorse the State Review Board determination that the East Smithfield Neighborhood Center is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic places, and is therefore not eligible for a State Preservation Grant.

On a motion by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Abbott, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to accept the SPG Review Panel's assessment of ineligibility and determinations of which projects not to fund.

On a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Kelley, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the following SPG projects with the understanding that the recommended funding amounts represent general allocations based on the applications at hand, and the Commissioners' vote to approve these grants also authorizes RIHPHC staff to work with grantees to adjust scopes-of-work and final budgets.

APPROVED 2017 STATE PRESERVATION GRANTS

SITE	REGION	TOWN	RECOMMEND	TOTAL PROJ.
Forestdale School/NSHA	Blackstone	N. Smithfield	\$48,221.00	\$294,640.00
Museum of Work & Culture	Blackstone	Woonsocket	\$40,752.00	\$81,503.00
Bristol County Jail/BHPS	East Bay	Bristol	\$83,427.00	\$166,853.00
Bristol Naval Armory/Maritime Ctr	East Bay	Bristol	\$150,000.00	\$467,969.00
Cushing Gallery/Npt. Art Museum	Newport	Newport	\$150,000.00	\$336,600.00
Edward King House/Npt. Senior Ctr.	Newport	Newport	\$150,000.00	\$342,160.00
Fort Adams	Newport	Newport	\$150,000.00	\$307,300.00
Newport Casino/ITHP	Newport	Newport	\$150,000.00	\$310,607.00
Newport Congregational Church	Newport	Newport	\$150,000.00	\$437,580.00
Redwood Library and Athenaeum	Newport	Newport	\$106,700.00	\$213,400.00
Rosecliff	Newport	Newport	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00
Trinity Church	Newport	Newport	\$27,846.00	\$55,692.00
Borders Farm	North/West	Foster	\$30,000.00	\$45,000.00
Smithfield Exchange Bank/SPS	North/West	Smithfield	\$8,000.00	\$12,000.00
Congdon Street Baptist Church	Providence	Providence	\$150,000.00	\$339,900.00
Governor Henry Lippitt House/PRI	Providence	Providence	\$150,000.00	\$788,168.00
Music Mansion	Providence	Providence	\$150,000.00	\$329,829.00
Providence Athenaeum	Providence	Providence	\$121,961.96	\$299,995.00
Casey Farm Barns/HNE	South County	N. Kingstown	\$39,160.00	\$93,280.00
Helme House/South Cty. Art Assoc.	South County	S. Kingstown	\$18,403.00	\$31,105.00
TOTALS			\$2,024,470.96	\$5,253,581.00

	\$ Recommend	# Awards	%
SMALL	\$56,403.00	3	2.8%
LARGE	\$1,968,067.96	17	97.2%
ALL	\$2,024,470.96	20	100%
BLACKSTONE VALLEY	\$88,973.00	2	4.4%
EAST BAY	\$233,427.00	2	11.5%
NEWPORT	\$1,034,546.00	8	51.1%
NORTH/WEST	\$38,000.00	2	1.9%
PROVIDENCE	\$571,961.96	4	28.3%
SOUTH COUNTY	\$57,563.00	2	2.8%
ALL	\$2,024,470.96	20	100.0%

The following applications were awarded funding:**BLACKSTONE VALLEY**

1. **Forestdale School** in North Smithfield was built in 1877 as a one-room schoolhouse for children in this mill village. The building is a contributing building in the Forestdale Mill Village Historic District, listed on the National Register. After the school closed in 1984, the Town leased the building to the North Smithfield Heritage Association to use as a museum, meeting space, and headquarters. A grant of \$48,221 towards a \$294,640 project will support exterior envelope restoration, including repairing doors or replacing them in-kind; restoring 14 original windows; repairing and painting roof trim; and installing a new roof, gutters, and downspouts.
2. In Woonsocket, the **Museum of Work and Culture** is located in the former Barnai Worsted Company Dye Works building, erected in 1914. It was converted into the museum by Rhode Island Historical Society in 1996-97. A grant of \$40,751 towards a \$81,503 project will replace the emergency exit doors with historically appreciate new doors and sidelights and will integrate the doors into the security/handicap access system.

EAST BAY

1. **Bristol County Jail** is an individually listed building erected in 1828 with a home for the jail keeper and his family and cells for prisoners; a large cellblock was added in 1859. Today, the building is home to the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society and serves as society headquarters, a research center, a museum, a meeting space, and a departure spot for historical walking tours. A grant of \$83,426 will go towards a \$156,353 project to repoint masonry; restore windows in the cellblock; repair storm windows and update with ultraviolet light protection; and replace part of the HVAC system.
2. The Romanesque Revival-style **Bristol Naval Reserve Armory** was constructed in 1896 for the Bristol Naval Reserve Torpedo Company of the Rhode Island Militia. Acquired by the Town of Bristol in 1968, the building is a public historic site, used as the Bristol Maritime Center with the Harbormaster's Office and multiuse space for community organizations, from the boy scouts to children's theatre groups. A grant of \$150,000 towards a \$467,969 project will enable the Town to complete a multi-phase granite masonry repair and restoration project.

NEWPORT

1. The Cushing Memorial Gallery is a 1919-20 Classical Revival style art gallery designed by Delano & Aldrich with a 1990 addition by Peter Roudebush and Associates. The first climate controlled gallery in southern Rhode Island, the facility is an important part of the NAM campus, expanding opportunities to exhibit loaned works of art. It is listed on the National Register in the Kay-Catherine Historic District. A grant of \$150,000 will support a \$336,600 roof replacement project that includes installing new insulation, flashing, and roof system; rebuilding the cupola; and replacing-in-kind two skylights and the copper dome.

2. A National Historic Landmark, the **Edward King House** was built in 1845-47 to designs by Richard Upjohn in the Italian villa style. Brick with asymmetrical massing, arched window openings and a three-story tower, this house was featured in Andrew Jackson Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses* in 1850. Donated to the City of Newport in 1912, it was used as the Newport Public Library and later converted into the Newport Senior Center. A \$150,000 grant will support a \$342,160 window restoration project: removing, restoring, and reinstalling the historic window sash and hardware, repairing sills and frames, and painting.
3. **Fort Adams** is another National Historic Landmark, completed in 1825 to defend Newport Harbor, Narragansett Bay, and the east coast. It was designed by Brigadier General Simon Bernard and is the largest coastal defense works of its kind in the United States. A \$150,000 grant will support \$307,300 worth of masonry work to reinstall fallen cordon stones on the east wall, repair cracks in the east and west walls, restore capstones on the north wall, and to reparge facades on the casemates and entrance ways.
4. **Newport Casino** is also a National Historic Landmark. Designed as a club and entertainment complex by McKim, Mead and White in 1880 it is one of the finest examples of Shingle Style architecture and played important roles in the history of tennis and the history of Newport during the Gilded Age. Headquarters of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, the building is a museum, library, and tennis center. \$150,000 towards a \$301,607 project will fund architectural and structural engineering services, reproduction of the historic balustrades, and installation of a new wood frieze board that incorporates the historic one-of-a-kind medallions that had been removed and put in storage.
5. Rhode Island's most recently listed National Historic Landmark is the former **Newport Congregational Church**, built in 1857 to designs by architect Joseph C. Wells. In 1880, master artist John La Farge created the interior decorative scheme that features intricately designed murals inspired by Middle Eastern motifs and opalescent and stained glass windows. La Farge Restoration Fund is coordinating the restoration and welcomes visitors to tour the building. A grant of \$150,000 will support a \$437,580 project to restore two of the large murals over the nave and to restore the painted-over decorations on the north and south sides of the nave.
6. The National Historic Landmark **Redwood Library and Athenaeum** was the first and most architecturally influential building designed by Peter Harrison in 1748. The Redwood was the first example of Palladian design in the American colonies and was Rhode Island's first library. Additions were erected in 1859 1879, and 1913. A grant of \$106,700 will support a \$169,180 project to repair the 1879 doors, clean hardware, refinish, and fit them; to replace, repair, and refinish wood siding; to restore and paint 19 windows and install invisible storm windows; to repair pocket shutters; and to complete repairs/repainting of the brownstone portico.

7. **Rosecliff** was built in 1901-02 and is individually listed on the National Register. Inspired by the Grand Trianon at Versailles, Stanford White designed a gracious estate house with modern materials such as glazed terracotta on a steel frame. Acquired by the Preservation Society of Newport County in 1971, Rosecliff is a museum, an event venue, and an exhibition space. A grant of \$150,000 will support a \$300,000 project to restore the east and south roof balustrade, replacing deteriorated elements in cast stone, repointing masonry, resetting capstones, and installing new copper flashing.
8. Influenced by Christopher Wren's London churches, **Trinity Church** was designed and built by Richard Munday. Begun in 1725 and updated and expanded over the next few decades, the church has been in continuous use since 1726. A National Historic Landmark, the church has a three-part touring program, welcoming walk-ons, school groups, and Four Faiths tours. A grant of \$22,846 will support a \$55,692 project to repair, strip, prime, and paint seven exterior doors; repair hardware; replace missing moldings; replace a basement door; and install a web-based electronic locking system.

NORTH/WEST

1. The **Smithfield Exchange Bank** was built in Greenville in 1822 as an ell of the Waterman Tavern. It is individually listed on the National Register. Inside, the rooms where farmers and small business owners banked remain intact. A Small Grant of \$8000 will enable Smithfield Preservation Society to carry out \$12,000 of repairs to prepare the building for tours. Project activities will include floor repairs and other code upgrades.
2. In Foster, individually-listed **Borders Farm** is a 200-acre historic working farm that offers public programs related to agriculture, nature, and history. A Small Project Grant of \$30,000 will support a \$45,000 project to carry out repairs of the ca. 1930 dairy barn, where Borders Farm Preservation Inc. hosts most indoor programs. Project activities include repairing or replacing-in-kind windows; replacing two doors; installing a replica of the original hayloft door; repairing siding and foundations; and powderpost beetle treatment. Additional activities include chimney repairs on the mid-19th century farmhouse and improving drainage near the two buildings.

PROVIDENCE

1. **The Congdon Street Baptist Church** was built in 1874 to a Italianate-style design by architect C.F. Wilcox. Individually listed on the National Register, the building is home to an active and engaged African-American congregation founded in 1819. It hosts special cultural events open to the public in partnership with Brown University, Stages of Freedom, and other local organizations. \$150,000 will support a \$339,900 project that will enable the congregation to address urgent structural repairs and life safety issues, including restoring the brick foundation; reinforcing the steeple and steeple roof structure; installing collar ties to secure the roof structure; and upgrading the fire safety system.
2. **The Governor Henry Lippitt House** is an individually listed National Historic Landmark. Designed by Lippitt, it was constructed in 1863-65 and occupied by four

generations of his family before opening to the public as a museum in 1883. Preserve Rhode Island will use a grant of \$150,000 for a \$778,168 project to restore the cast-iron cornice. Project activities include installing staging and scaffolding; removing and repairing the cast-iron acanthus leaves; completing repairs and reinstalling the cornice; refastening egg and dart molding; prepping and painting the entire cornice; and spot-repointing the chinneys.

3. Located in the College Hill NHL District, the **Music Mansion** is an English manor-style building designed by architect Albert Harkness for music patron Mary Kimball Hail. It includes a small concert hall, reception rooms, and a private residence. Bequeathed to the community in 1948, the property is used for concerts that advance “the public’s interest in and appreciation for good music.” Friends of the Music Mansion will use a \$150,000 grant for a \$329,829 project that repairs the roof and drainage system; replaces slate shingles, parapet flashings, gutters, and downspouts; and installs new scuppers.
4. The **Providence Athenaeum** (also in the College Hill NHL District), is a Greek Revival temple of books, designed by Philadelphia architect William Strickland and built in 1836-38 with additions erected in 1917 and 1977-79. A longtime Providence cultural institution, the Athenaeum will use a grant of \$121,961.96 towards a \$299,995 project to replace the rubber membrane roof; abate asbestos; install new copper downspouts and repair copper gutters; and repair the skylights.

SOUTH COUNTY

1. **Helme House** is headquarters of the **South County Art Association**, which operates an art gallery, hosts art classes, and rents artist studios on site. The building was erected in two stages, in 1802 and 1818 and is included in the Kingston Village Historic District listed on the National Register. A grant of \$18,403 will support a \$28,595 project to repair the wood-sash windows, replace missing storm windows, and complete exterior painting.
2. Individually listed on the National Register, North Kingstown’s **Casey Farm** is a 300-acre working farm whose history dates back to 1702. The property was acquired by Historic New England in 1955 and ranks as the organization’s most visited property. The ca. 1850 **cow and calf barns** supported dairying operations and now are used for educational programs, summer camps, tours, and agricultural activities. A grant of \$39,160 will go towards a \$93,280 project to complete pest control; investigate structural issues; carry out framing, ceiling, and masonry repairs; repair the floor; paint and whitewash interior surfaces; and gutter/downspout replacement.

The following applications were not recommended for funding:

1. **St. Mary’s Church** was out-competed by other stronger applications from Newport.
2. **Block Island Historical Society** presented a poorly organized application and failed to convey a strong overall vision for the project.

3. **The National Museum of American Illustration** in Newport did not demonstrate much community engagement or impact. Also, the Review Panel found that the project to reattach downspouts, repair leaks, and replace flashings at Vernon Court consisted largely of maintenance activities.
4. The masonry and window repair project at **Sons of Jacob Synagogue** in Providence is an eligible preservation project, but panelists were concerned about the conditions of the building, the large scope of the entire project, and the start-up status of the museum.
5. Review panelists expressed concern about the timing of the reuse plan for **Providence Armory**, extensive physical preservation needs of the building, and perceived and real barriers to access.

The following applications were evaluated to be ineligible for funding:

1. The **Forman Center** in Providence is used principally as the Rhode Island College Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the Institute of Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, offices, and classrooms; it also contains a large meeting space that does not have regular public programs. Review panelists concluded that the Forman Center does not meet SPG program definitions of a museum, cultural art center, or public historic site and is not an eligible candidate for the State Preservation Grant program.
2. SPG program regulations require applicant properties to be on or eligible for the State Register of Historic Places. Because the **East Smithfield Neighborhood Center** is not listed on the National Register and is not included in a local historic district zone, Commission staff asked the State Review Board to consider the building's eligibility for the National Register as an individual listing. Following a presentation about the building made at the December 4, 2017 meeting, the State Review Board found that the property had undergone substantial alterations that compromised its historic integrity and concluded that the building did not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register. The ESNC is not an eligible candidate for the State Preservation Grant program.

9. Announcements

Dr. Morenon announced that his new book, entitled *Rediscovering Lost Innocence: Archaeology at the State Home and School*, will be available in January. The state Home and School was located at what is now the Rhode Island College campus, in Providence. Approximately 10,000 people passed through the State Home and School during its existence. Proceeds from sales of the book will go to the Rhode Island Foundation. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the book can contact Dr. Morenon directly.

10. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 9:30 AM.

11. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Minutes recorded by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Emidy". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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