



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
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MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
February 14, 2018

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA  
Mr. Warren Ducharme, representing the State Building Code Commissioner  
Dr. Tripp Evans  
Dr. Morgan Grefe  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Clark Schoettle  
Ms. Lucie Searle  
Mr. John Smith  
Ms. Ruth Taylor, Chair  
Vacant

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Janet Coit, Director, DEM  
Ms. Tanya Kelley  
Mr. Kevin Nelson, representing the Associate Director of the Division of Planning  
Mr. Jesse Saglio, President, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Rosemary Carreiro, Fiscal Aide  
Ms. Joanna Doherty, Principal Architectural Historian  
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Acting Executive Director/Deputy Director  
Mr. Glenn Modica, Senior Project Review Coordinator  
Ms. Elizabeth Warburton, Senior Architectural Historian  
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Coordinator

GUESTS

Karst Hoogeboom  
Rachel Robinson, Providence Preservation Society

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Minutes of January 10, 2018

Ms. Searle suggested two corrections.

On a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the corrected Minutes of January 10, 2018.

### 3. Acting Executive Director's Report

- a) Mr. Emidy informed the Commission that the office has been level-funded by the Governor's Office and the Budget Office, but that we have not yet heard about the House and Senate Finance Committees' proposed funding. We also have not heard anything about the State Preservation Grants funding that we requested.

Ms. Searle asked why we have not received any response. Mr. Sanderson stated that one could be reasonably confident that the funds are not included in the House and Senate budgets. He said that the State Council on the Arts did not submit a request, so we do not have the opportunity to team with them as we did in 2014.

Ms. Taylor asked what the next step should be if the coalition of preservation groups in the state is focused on the state historic preservation tax credit. Ms. Searle urged that the Commission be proactive on this effort and contact Randy Rosenbaum at RISCA, Scott Wolf at Grow Smart RI, and others to try to drum up vocal support.

- b) Mr. Emidy reported that the Jenckes Spinning Company was listed in the National Register on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase was listed on January 29<sup>th</sup>. He also pointed out that the University of Rhode Island, after having many concerns about National Register listing for the campus quadrangle historic district, has been heavily promoting the recent listing on their website, and in print and television media. Mr. Ducharme stated that the State Building Commission and the RIHPHC architects have been working with URI on projects at the historic buildings that are near the quadrangle for many years.
- c) Mr. Emidy gave an update on the Edge College Hill Phase II development that was reviewed at the January 10 Commission meeting. The proposal that we saw was withdrawn after the January meeting, after review, but no decisions, by the

Providence Downtown Design Review Committee (DDRC). The developer has submitted a new DDRC application for a building that is only 120 feet tall. This would receive a bonus for active use on the first floor, but would not require a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) from the RIHPHC. The DDRC reviewed the application at its meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> but did not make any decisions. Neighborhood concerns about parking and the influx of people to the neighborhood were voiced again at the meeting.

Without the TDR, the only review mechanism for the RIHPHC is a result of the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council permit that will be required because of the site's proximity to the tidal river. The easement applications that were filed with the RIHPHC for the TDR have not been withdrawn. The project counsel explained that until the DDRC review process is complete, they will not withdraw the easement applications. Mr. Emidy suggested that the Commission not consider the easement applications any further until it is requested of us.

Mr. Emidy showed a number of views of the old and new designs for the project to the Commissioners as an illustration of its design evolution. Mr. Schoettle explained some of the details of the new building design. He also stated that the City is considering revising or deleting the TDR language from its ordinance because it seems at odds with other goals of the zoning ordinance.

#### 4. Report: 2018 State Preservation Conference Planning

Sarah Zurier presented information to the Commission about the upcoming conference to be held in Providence on April 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This year, we are collaborating with Latinos in Heritage Conservation, a national group, and Rhode Island Latino Arts to host our conference, which is called Encuentro. The Thursday and Friday sessions are being organized by the LHC and RILA and will feature presenters from around the country. Saturday will be the more traditional RIHPHC conference, with a keynote address by Dr. Ray Rast, Assistant Professor of History at Gonzaga University. Unlike past years, we will not have breakout sessions this year; all of the Saturday program will be walking, bicycle, and bus tours. Focal points will include Latino history in Providence, Olneyville, underrepresented communities, and downtown projects. Tours will also extend out to Pawtucket and Central Falls. Online registration for the conference will be operational early next month.

#### 5. Report: Executive Director Search Committee

Ms. Taylor reported that the Executive Director Search Committee will conduct Skype interviews with applicants on Friday with further interviews to follow.

## 6. Announcements

Ms. Taylor reminded the commissioners that the governor's office considers appointments to the Commission in the spring. Her own term and Dr. Morenon's are set to expire soon, and one vacancy was not filled by the governor the last time around. Dr. Grefe reminded the commissioners that we have talked in the past about adding another landscape expert. Mr. Abbott asked if the commissioners can recommend potential members. Ms. Taylor said that any recommendations should be sent to Mr. Emidy and Mr. Sanderson.

Mr. Schoettle asked what specific discipline the vacant position should be filled by. Mr. Sanderson said that he is not aware, but would look into that. He also mentioned that the Commission used to have an abundance of members from Newport, but that has shifted to Providence, and that it needs more representation of the East Bay and the western part of the state.

Ms. Searle asked who our contact is at the governor's office. Ms. Taylor replied that Tom Papa and Brett Smiley are our contacts. Ms. Searle stated that we should get in touch with Brett Smiley about the matter.

7. Mr. Emidy announced that the next Commission meeting will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 9:30am.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



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