



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
November 12, 2014

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA
Ms. Caitlin Greeley, Statewide Planning, representing Kevin Flynn
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Deputy SHPO, representing Jonathan Stevens, State Historic
Preservation Officer
Ms. Ruth Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Joanna Doherty, Senior Architectural Historian
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Principal Project Review Coordinator
Dr. Timothy Ives, Principal Archaeologist
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, RIDOT Reviewer
Ms. Roberta Randall, Principal Historical Architect
Mr. Jeff Rosenberg, Senior Grants Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Ms. Morgan Devlin
Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM
Mr. Pieter N. Roos
Mr. Clark Schoettle
Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director EDC

GUESTS

Mr. Benjamin McGrath, President The Dunes Club & Mr. Sterling
Mr. Richard Youngken, National Register Consultant for The Dunes Club
Mr. Dylan Peacock, National Register Consultant for Cutler House

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes of October 8, 2014

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

VOTED to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2014.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) With unanimous consent, a memorial to Richard Greenwood will be inserted in the Minutes of this meeting.

b) Bond Issue #5: Cultural & Historic Properties Grants was approved. The State Preservation Grant program will receive \$5 million.

c) The position of Principal Architectural Historian is vacant due to Mack Woodward's retirement, and a request to refill the position has been approved by the State Division of Personnel. The position notice has been posted on the RIHPHC website, applications have been received and interviews have been scheduled for the top candidates.

4. State Historic Preservation Officer's Report

There was no State Historic Preservation Officer's report.

5. Report on Eisenhower House

Roberta Randall reported on a current \$2 million renovation project at the historic Eisenhower House at Fort Adams State Park. Eisenhower House is managed and operated by RIHPHC as a venue for social events and meetings. The project is the first overall rehabilitation since Eisenhower House was assigned to RIHPHC in 1997. The project includes:

- Reconstruction of the porches with improved structural design;
- Removal of the unsightly access ramp;
- Construction of a service ell with an elevator and new women's restroom;
- Interior and exterior painting;
- New furnishings for events and offices;
- Kitchen renovation, heating, electrical, & plumbing upgrades;
- Site work and landscaping.

Construction has begun, and re-opening will be May 1, 2015.

6. Report on Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants

Jeff Rosenberg presented information about proposed amendments to previously approved grant projects. He noted that RIHPHC staff recommends these changes and unobligated federal funds are available.

Benjamin Church Senior Center in Bristol was approved for a grant of \$11,495 to repair storm damage to the roof. Upon close inspection by the contractor, the roof is too damaged and worn for repair and should be replaced at an increased cost of \$37,505.

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Taylor, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the increased grant amount.

W.T. Grant Building on Main Street, Pawtucket also had roof damaged and was approved for a grant of \$90,000. Further inspection by the contractor identified additional damage to masonry parapets and roof structure, resulting in a cost increase of \$90,000. The historic building is occupied and it is a landmark in downtown Pawtucket. If the roof work is not completed, the owner will have to close the building.

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Malone, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the increased grant amount.

A new grant application has been received from the Newport Restoration Foundation for repairs to a section of stone remaining wall at the Cliff Walk along the property of Rough Point. The restoration work will cost \$20,480.

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the grant.

Following Mr. Rosenberg's report, Mr. Sanderson announced that Jeff has accepted a new job in Mississippi and will be leaving the RIHPHC at the beginning of December. The Commissioners thanked him for his service and wished him well at his new job.

7. National Register of Historic Places

a) Final Approval: The Dunes Club, Narragansett

Joanna Doherty presented the nomination. The Dunes Club is a complex of recreational buildings occupying 28 acres on a spit of land fronting the Atlantic Ocean, with the entrance to the Pettaquamscutt River (also known as the Narrow River) immediately to the east. The complex faces south toward the sea and is arranged on a roughly east/west axis at approximately 14 feet above sea level. The Dunes Club is located in a residential part of Narragansett, about a

mile north of the town center. Large seasonal homes, most dating to the early 20th century, are located to the north and west.

The Dunes Club, an excellent example of the private American beach club facility of the early- to mid-20th century, is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation for its capacity to illustrate the history of Narragansett, Rhode Island as a resort community. The Dunes Club was founded in the late 1920s, at which point recreational activities for the wealthy in Narragansett – as at other resort locations in the United States – had shifted away from resort hotels and toward summer colonies comprised of private residences. Membership-only clubs were established in many American resort communities in the early 1900s, providing facilities for summer residents to socialize; the Dunes Club was founded primarily by families from New York and Philadelphia who summered in Narragansett.

The Dunes Club is also significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture. It is a highly intact complex consisting of a clubhouse (1939), bathhouses (1939), cabanas (1939, 1955), staff housing (1939, 1993) and a gatehouse (1928), fronting the Atlantic Ocean. The complex's primary building is the clubhouse, designed by Thomas Pym Cope of Philadelphia. The clubhouse is broadly Colonial Revival in style, with a low-slung, gable-roof form and natural materials that reflect the New England vernacular. It represents a dramatic shift away from its predecessor, a Mediterranean Revival-style clubhouse built on the same site in 1928 that was destroyed by the Hurricane of 1938. (The gatehouse, which still stands at the west end of the property, is the only surviving structure from this earlier complex.) The clubhouse also incorporates stylized ornamentation and stripped-down architectural elements reflective of the Art Moderne style. Its design embodies a national trend toward a newly refined and modern American architectural classicism growing out of the Great Depression and influenced by the federal WPA programs.

Dr. Onorato noted that Dunes Club architect Thomas Pym Cope of Philadelphia has other Rhode Island connections, and he stated that the Dunes Club is architecturally interesting for its overlay of Moderne elements on a Colonial Revival design. Mr. Hoogeboom commented on the well-preserved condition of the historic features. After further discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Malone, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Dunes Club nomination.

b) Final Approval: Cutler House, 12 Woodbine Street, Providence

Joanna Doherty presented the nomination. The Susan S. and Edward J. Cutler House is a one-and-a-half story, balloon frame, L-plan, Late Victorian, Stick style cottage built in 1880 in the Mount Hope neighborhood of Providence, Rhode Island. The house has a raised brick foundation, machine-sawn clapboard siding, a rectangular bay window on the south façade, a partly enclosed front entrance porch on the west elevation, wood trim combining Stick style and some Italianate style elements, and a cross-gable, asphalt-shingled roof. A ca. 1921 one-story,

one-bay, front-gable, wood-frame garage, which stands directly behind the house, has similar materials and features. The exterior of the house has changed little since 1880; the original floor plan has been modified only on the second floor, with the addition of two bathrooms (ca. 1918 and 1989). Virtually all the interior finishes, including those in the 1920s kitchen, have survived from the period of significance. The Cutler House retains a high level of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Susan S. and Edward J. Cutler House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Built in 1880, the Cutler House is an unusually well-preserved example of a Late Victorian, Stick style dwelling. Typical of the style, the house exhibits wood siding; a steeply-pitched, cross-gable roof; and decorative trusses – or “stick work” – in the gable peaks. In addition, the house’s diminutive size and asymmetrical form reflects the “picturesque” cottages promoted by popular nineteenth-century authors, such as Andrew Jackson Downing. The Cutler House displays a high level of integrity on the exterior and interior, with a majority of its historic finishes and features surviving intact.

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

VOTED to approve the Cutler House nomination.

8. Other Business: There was no other business.

9. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday December 10, 2014 at 9:30 AM.

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer