



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968
www.preservation.ri.gov

MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND STATE REVIEW BOARD
February 3, 2020 9:30 am

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Dr. Marisa Angell Brown
Dr. Tripp Evans
Ms. Tanya Kelley
Dr. Patrick Malone (arrived at 10:10)
Dr. Ronald Onorato, Chairman
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson
Ms. Martha Werenfels, AIA

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Vacant (archaeologist)

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Joanna Doherty, Principal Architectural Historian
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Deputy Director
Mr. John Paul Loether, Executive Director/SHPO
Ms. Elizabeth Rochefort, Principal Architectural Historian

GUESTS

Edward Connors, East Providence
Roger Beaudry, American-French Genealogical Society, Woonsocket
Normand Deragon, American-French Genealogical Society, Woonsocket

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 A.M. by Chairman Onorato.

2. Minutes of October 7, 2019

On a motion by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Abbott, the Review Board unanimously VOTED TO APPROVE the Minutes of October 7, 2019 as submitted for review.

3. State Historic Preservation Officer's Report

a. Report on the current status of the National Preservation Program

John Paul Loether reported that the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) office proposed changes to the regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act last spring. The key aspects of these to Rhode Island relate to counting owner objections to National Register of Historic Places nominations – would they be counted by the area or the value of the owner's property – and the appeal process – if a federal agency decides not to forward a nomination to the Keeper of the National Register, the nomination is essentially dead, without the opportunity for appeal. Approximately 3,200 comments on the proposed changes were received by the SOI. Five of them were in favor, all of which came from representatives of extractive industries. Mr. Loether asked the staff at the National Park Service (NPS) in December if the changes would be promulgated. The response was that December was the aim for doing so. Mr. Loether expects the changes to go through as proposed.

The National Environmental Policy Act, "NEPA", is also under fire. The concepts of cumulative effects and indirect effects appear to be targets of change. John Fowler, Executive Director of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, has told Mr. Loether that he anticipates that Section 106 regulations are next in line for changes.

The National Historic Landmark (NHL) program hasn't had a committee meeting since 2016. They used to meet twice a year. In 2018, the entire NHL Board resigned. There is a new board in place, but a new committee has not been appointed. NHL nominations continue to come in, but they are backlogged.

Mr. Loether joined the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) in the spring of 2019. He has been appointed to the external affairs committee. The next NCSHPO board meeting is March 12, in Washington, D.C. as part of Advocacy Week. He is setting up meetings with our senators and representatives or their staffs now. He intends to make the case for additional funding for the Historic Preservation Fund and discuss his concern about the proposed rule changes to the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allotment from the NPS for fiscal year 2020 includes and additional approximately \$20,000 for Rhode Island. Mr. Loether handed out a document entitled “Apportionment of Funds to State Historic Preservation Office Programs” to the board members. Discussion about changing the apportionment formula has begun at the NPS. The western states tend to want the apportionment formula to be based on state acreage, while the northeastern states tend to focus on density of historic resources. Mr. Sanderson stated that when the current apportionment formula was being drafted, some thought that the states with more properties should get more money. High-population states thought that should be the deciding factor. Large states thought it should be based on acreage. The RIHPHC did a count of Rhode Island properties over 50 years old at that time. Since World War II, population and building booms will skew the numbers away from small states like Rhode Island. Jeffrey Emidy has agreed to serve on the subcommittee at NCSHPO for this.

The Save America’s Treasures program has been refunded for this fiscal year. RIHPHC has an application in for \$500,000 for Old State House repairs.

b. Role of the State Review Board in the federal historic preservation program

Mr. Loether distributed copies of federal code *Section 300318 State Historic Review Board* to the commissioners. We don’t currently have by-laws for the State Review Board. These are required by the federal government, so we need to prioritize the effort. The Board will have the opportunity to review draft by-laws.

Referring to *Section 300318 State Historic Review Board*, part 3(C), the Review Board has the authority to “provide general advice and guidance to the State Historic Preservation Officer”, Mr. Loether stated that this is a general provision with no specific limitations. It provides for general advice, rather than project-specific advice. Board members are invited to share their thoughts with Mr. Loether on issues.

Referring to *Section 300318 State Historic Review Board*, part 3(C), the Review Board has the authority to “perform such other duties as may be appropriate, Mr. Loether stated that this is limited to items that fall within the National Register rubric. For example, investment tax credits can be commented on as they relate to the NR part of the application, but not the work being done. Section 106 is another example; it is outside the purview of the State Review Board or the Commission, for that matter.

4. Deputy Director’s Report

a. Nomination Processing Updates

Jeffrey Emidy reported that, after the October 7, 2019 State Review Board meeting, Elizabeth Rochefort finalized the nomination for the State Home and School for

Dependent and Neglected Children Historic District and sent it to the NPS. The district was listed on December 30, 2019. More recently, she has been working on the nomination for the former First Universalist Church in Woonsocket, now the American-French Genealogical Society, and a potential district near Wickford in the area of Loop Drive.

Joanna Doherty wrapped up the Wakefield Historic District changes that we discussed at the October meeting. That was listed on December 19, 2019. She has also been working on the Essex Library in Tiverton and *The Struggle for African-American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island* grant.

Mr. Emidy reported that he wrapped up the nomination for the Moore Fabric Company Plant, in Pawtucket, and sent it to the NPS. It was listed on December 19.

b. Properties listed

Mr. Emidy reported that, in addition to those just mentioned, one other nomination was outstanding at the time of the last meeting. The Cumberland Town Hall Historic District was listed on October 21, 2019. He thanked the Town of Cumberland for their support throughout the process.

5. National Register of Historic Places Final Review

First Universalist Church
78 Earle Street, Woonsocket

Elizabeth Rochefort made a presentation for final review of the First Universalist Church, in Woonsocket. The owner of the building is the American-French Genealogical Society (AFGS), and they are pursuing National Register listing as a condition of a State Preservation Grant they received in 2016.

The church is located at 78 Earle Street, in the city's Social district. It is the only Universalist church in the city and represents the work of two established local architects, Gorham Henshaw and Arland A. Dirlam. It is a masonry building with a raised, buff-colored brick foundation, buff-colored brick walls, and membrane and asphalt shingle roofs. The church consists of three sections: a 2-story parish house with a flat roof and short parapet and a 2-story rear ell, both constructed in 1924; and a 1-story sanctuary addition to the parish house's northwest elevation, constructed in 1957. The northeast-facing façade comprises both the original 1924 main block and the new sanctuary space and central tower added in 1957.

The church is associated with preacher and businessman Hosea Ballou, who is considered the "Father of Universalism" in the United States. Born in Rhode Island, Ballou converted to Universalism in his early 20s and published widely and became one of the most prominent figures in the sect. He visited Woonsocket numerous times in the first half of the 19th century and in 1828 established a cotton mill at 15 Main Street.

About 1830, a group of Universalists began worshipping in the city. In 1839, the group erected their own building, the First Universalist Church, at the corner of Church and Main Streets in downtown Woonsocket. Hosea Ballou attended the service and preached the inaugural sermon. The church was successful from the time of its organization and grew rapidly. Prominent preachers from major cities frequently visited Woonsocket and participated in services at the church.

About 1919, the congregation purchased a lot at the corner of Earle and Snow Streets and commissioned architect Gorham Henshaw to design a new church. Henshaw designed a church with a school/parish house attached, however, only the parish hall was constructed, with completion in 1924.

By 1950, over thirty years had passed since Gorham Henshaw's original plans for a Gothic Revival sanctuary. The First Universalist Church remained committed to constructing a new sanctuary and commissioned Arland A. Dirlam to design a modern addition to its 1924 building. The sanctuary was completed in 1957, providing formalized seating, an organ, and a sacristy. Although the design was streamlined, it struck a middle ground between modern and traditional and was published in *The Universalist Leader* magazine.

Between 1958 and 1962, the congregation added nine stained glass windows to the nave of the addition - five on the northeast façade and four on the southwest elevation. The windows were dedicated in memory of parishioners and portray Christian scenes.

The addition to the First Universalist Church achieved a longstanding goal for the parish. In the years following, the church remained an important presence in Woonsocket. By the 1980s, however, the congregation faced challenges of aging parishioners and declining membership. The congregation eventually disbanded in 2007 and the American-French Genealogical Society purchased the property. The building is now used as the AFGS research center and houses a veterans' museum in the parish house.

The property is being considered under Criterion A for Religion and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance of 1924 to 1962 begins with the construction of the church in 1924, includes the construction of a large addition in 1957, and ends with the installation of the final stained-glass windows in the addition in 1962. The building retains integrity of location, materials, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. Both the exterior and interior appear largely as they did at the time of construction; some sash on the 1924 block have been replaced with vinyl.

Dr. Onorato asked if there is any documentation about the design of the tower, stating that the Dirlam drawing shows it different than what was executed. Ms. Rochefort replied that she has not uncovered any documentation about the change and that it could simply have been a stylistic preference.

Mr. Sanderson asked if there was ever a spire atop the tower. Ms. Rochefort replied that there was. Normand Deragon, of the AFGS, stated that there was a cross, however, after a roof leak developed, it was removed by the AFGS.

Mr. Sanderson commented that Ms. Rochefort did a nice piece of local research for this nomination.

After discussion, a motion to approve the nomination was made by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Ms. Werenfels. The Review Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.

6. National Register of Historic Places Preliminary Review

Essex Public Library
238 Highland Road, Tiverton

Joanna Doherty made a presentation for preliminary review of the Essex Public Library, in Tiverton. The former Essex Public Library occupies a two-acre site at the head of Middle Avenue in the Stone Bridge section of Tiverton. The one-story, fieldstone, Colonial Revival-style building faces west with views toward the Sakonnet River. A series of granite terraces provides access to the building, which sits on a slight rise. The compact structure is composed of a three-bays-wide, side-gable main block with two front-gable wings, forming an H plan. It features a granite string course, a wood cornice, gable-end cornice returns, and a slate roof topped with a wood-and-copper, octagonal cupola. The principal entrance is centered on the west elevation of the south wing and consists of a single wood, paneled door set within a classically-inspired door surround. Fenestration includes 8/12, 6/6 and 4/4, double-hung, wood window sash. The floor plan, which survives largely intact, originally included a reading room with a vaulted ceiling in the main block; an entry foyer, children's library and stairs to the basement in the south wing; and a stacks room, librarian's office and small bathroom in the north wing. Interior finishes include hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, simple wood door and window molding, and original wood doors. Built-in wood bookcases are located in the reading room and children's library. A large tile mosaic by Mika Seeger was installed in the stairway in the early 1990s.

Upon her death in 1937, Lydia Baker Essex, a longtime summer resident of Tiverton, donated a two-acre site and \$42,000 to the town for the purpose of building a public library. The library, which Essex stipulated be constructed of stone, was to be named in memory of her mother, Lydia Smith Baker Essex. Construction began in October 1938 and the building was dedicated on June 20, 1940. The library was designed by the Boston-based architect Charles Greely Loring, a 1903 graduate of Harvard and 1906 graduate of MIT, who had studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Loring worked in the offices of Guy Lowell in Boston and Cass Gilbert in New York before forming a partnership with Joseph Daniels Leland III in Boston in 1913. The firm Loring and Leland was active until 1919, at which point Loring pursued a solo practice. Loring completed a number of public projects, mostly in Massachusetts, including the Beverly Public Library in 1913, the Beverly Farms Branch Library in 1915-16; the Waltham Public Library in 1915; Waltham Junior High School in 1925; Holton High School in Danvers in 1929-31; and Southern Junior High School in Somerville in 1930. Most of these projects were executed in brick and employed the Colonial Revival style. In 1927-

28, Loring designed the Georgian Revival-style Camden Public Library in Camden, Maine, working with Parker Morse Hooper, a New York City architect with roots in the local community. When the building committee was seeking a landscape architect to design the library grounds, Loring recommended Fletcher Steele, with whom he shared an office in Boston. Steele created a terraced amphitheater to the building's rear, closely coordinating the design with that of the library; for example, Steele called upon Loring to design two garden pavilions to frame the view from the amphitheater toward the harbor. The Camden Amphitheater and Public Library was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013 for its significance in the area of landscape architecture.

The library was closed and sold by the town in 2017 and is currently being converted into a residence.

Dr. Evans asked if the modern mural is being retained. Ms. Doherty replied that it is, but a small piece is being moved out of necessity for the interior changes.

Mr. Abbott opined that the plan changes do not affect the integrity of the building and they should not be considered a negative in the nomination. He stated that the nomination should include information about the siting and asked if that lot was always intended to be used for a public building.

Mr. Sanderson stated that the building has a very 1920s/1930s, suburban residential feel. For the final State Review Board presentation, it would be important to see the renovation completed before voting. The renovation does appear to be sensitive to the historical elements of the building. Ms. Doherty stated that she has advised the property owner to complete the renovation prior to preparing the nomination.

Ms. Kelley stated that there seem to be a number of small libraries that a daughter or granddaughter donated in memory of a family member. This would be interesting to look into. She also asked if this library was constructed before the public library movement came to be.

The Board members also opined that the nomination should explore the relationship between the library's site and Middle Avenue. For example, when was Middle Avenue, including its bandstand, laid out and developed? Also, how and why did Lydia Baker Essex own this property, and did she ever intend to build a house on it?

Dr. Brown made a motion that the property appears to be potentially eligible for listing subject to the final documentation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abbott, and the Review Board unanimously VOTED to approve the motion.

7. Report on *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island* grant

Ms. Doherty reported on *The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island* grant. The project was carried out in partnership with the Rhode Island

Historical Society (RIHS) and the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (RIBHS) and was funded by a nearly \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Grant Program.

The project had three phases. Phase one involved information gathering through research and oral histories. The lead partner in that phase was the RIBHS. Based on that research, the RIBHS produced a historical narrative and we were able to identify places of significance to the Civil Rights movement in Rhode Island. Phase two was the survey phase, with RIHPHC as the lead partner and the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) as consultants. PAL documented significant sites across the state and evaluated their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The RIHS took the lead on phase three, which involved the creation of public programming, such as exhibitions and lectures, and the development of unit plans for incorporation into elementary, middle school and high school-level curricula.

The project got underway in February 2017 and was completed in the fall of 2019. At the beginning of the project, the partners hosted a kickoff meeting at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Cranston Street. The format was a "fireside chat" hosted by Soni Stokes of RIBHS. Speakers included Fred Williamson Jr., Michael Van Leesten, and Ted Sanderson.

During Phase one, Keith Stokes conducted research at various repositories, prepared a historic narrative about the movement that is focused on the 20th century, compiled a Civil Rights bibliography, and looked into the passage of civil rights laws. Keith and Soni Stokes compiled a list of existing interviews with people involved in the civil rights movement from 1995 at the Providence city archives and recorded and transcribed additional new interviews based on a questionnaire developed with the RIHS and RIHPHC. Soni and Keith prepared a timeline that is available on the RIBHS website.

While developing a historical narrative regarding the civil rights movement in Rhode Island, the RIBHS looked into the origins of the civil rights movement in the black church, early-20th-century political organizations, the fight for fair employment, and the struggle for fair housing, including the passage of a Fair Housing Practices Law in 1965 and the displacement of communities due to forces such as urban renewal and highway construction. They also documented instances of racial intimidation, including a KKK rally in Foster in 1924 and a suspicious fire at the Watchman Industrial Institute in Scituate, a school for black children, in 1926, as well as instances of protests and resistance in the black community, such as the Negro Silent Protest Parade in 1918 and the 1968 student walk-out at Brown University.

Toward the end of phase one, the partners held another public meeting at the historic Congdon Street Baptist Church. Pastor Justin Lester welcomed the group and speakers included Paul Loether, Soni Stokes, Geralyn Ducady of RIHS, Laura Kline of PAL, and Keith Stokes. There was a good turnout and coverage in the *Providence Journal*.

While conducting the research and oral histories, RIBHS made note of any places associated with people, organizations or events related to the civil rights movement,

producing a list of about 120 extant places that formed the basis for the survey work. This list was then whittled down to 75 based on the strength of the association with the civil rights movement and apparent integrity; the desire to include sites that were representative of different time periods, themes, and places; and the desire to include a range of resource types. The majority of sites surveyed are located in Providence and Newport, though five are in East Providence, two are in Cranston, and Pawtucket, Foster, and North Providence each have one site. For each of the selected sites, PAL did fieldwork and research and produced a RIHPHC Historic Property Data Form.

PAL also built on the historical narrative prepared during phase one of the project in order to create a historical context within which sites could be evaluated for their significance and National Register eligibility. There are challenges inherent to places associated with underrepresented history, including demolition – many sites significant to RI’s civil rights history do not survive – and many properties not recognized for their significance or possibly located in areas of disinvestment have been neglected or have experienced changes to their physical fabric. A lack of integrity poses a hurdle to National Register listing.

By the end of the survey project, PAL had determined that 47 of the 75 surveyed properties are already listed in the National Register, either individually or as part of a district, but their civil rights association is not acknowledged in the nomination. They determined that the nominations could be amended to include this information. PAL recommends prioritizing three nominations for amendments based on the significance of the resources’ civil rights associations and/or the number of civil rights-related resources they contain. The Newport Historic District contains 12 surveyed properties associated with the civil rights movement, including Cardines Field, the home of Rev. Mahlon Van Horne at 47 John Street, Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland’s dwelling at 84–86 John Street, the Old Friends Meeting House, and the Army and Navy YMCA on Washington Square. The Downtown Providence Historic District contains seven surveyed properties associated with the civil rights movement, including three office buildings that housed the law practices of three prominent African American lawyers, Alton Wiley, Julius S. Mitchell and Joseph LeCount; and the Beneficent Congregational Church, the setting for the first meeting of the Providence branch of the NAACP in 1913. The Israel Mason House, at 571 Broad Street in Providence, is listed individually for its architectural significance under the name of its original owner, but for 40 years was a funeral home operated by Andrew J. Bell, Jr., a prominent member of Providence’s African American business community and a founder of the Providence Urban League and the Opportunities Industrialization Center, which provides job training for people of color.

PAL also evaluated 14 properties not yet listed in the National Register as potentially eligible for listing. These are mostly in Providence, but also in East Providence, Pawtucket and Newport. Many could be nominated under Criterion B for their association with people significant to the civil rights movement in Rhode Island, including: the John F. and Florence Lopez House, in East Providence; the John Carter Minkins House, in Pawtucket; the Philip F. Addison Jr. House, in Providence; the Irving J. Fain House, in Providence, which is also likely eligible under Criterion C; and the Bertha Higgins House, in Providence.

In other cases, properties might be eligible under Criterion A because they relate to broad patterns or themes in civil rights history. These include:

- Mary H. Dickerson House/Women's Newport League Building, Newport – the Women's Newport League was established in 1895 to address wage equity, voter registration, and anti-lynching efforts, among other causes;
- Lippitt Hill Elementary School, Providence – the first school in the state planned with integration as an explicit goal;
- Swedish Workingmen's Association Hall, Providence – the site of meetings of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 308, which was the subject of a lawsuit overseen by the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall;
- St. Martin de Porres Center, Providence – the Center served Providence's poor population, which was disproportionately black, and its founder was active in the Catholic Interracial Council; and
- Hood-Shaw Memorial AME Zion Church, Providence, which is also likely eligible under Criterion C.

Some properties might be primarily significant under Criterion C for their design, but also have noteworthy associations with the struggle for civil rights. These include:

- Triggs Memorial Golf Course, Providence – the site of protests and the subject of litigation regarding segregation in Rhode Island golf clubs and tournaments in the 1960s;
- Pond Street Baptist/Second Freewill Baptist Church, Providence – a mid-century Modern building and the only extant building associated with the congregation, whose members and leadership were active in the civil rights movement; and
- Rochambeau Gospel Chapel/Bethel AME Church, Providence – a Colonial Revival-style church with a congregation active in civil rights work.

University Heights, built in 1964 and 1968, is potentially eligible under Criterion C for architecture, Criterion A for community planning and development, and Criterion B for its association with Irving Fain. The site plan was developed by Victor Gruen. It was the first urban renewal project in Rhode Island to include plans for the construction of new racially and economically integrated housing to replace the cleared buildings. Irving Fain, a white Providence businessman who was active in the fight for a fair housing law, was the developer. University Heights may be the best embodiment of Fain's work in fair housing and desegregation.

The historic context developed by PAL and recommendations regarding National Register eligibility are all contained within a Survey Report, produced at the end of phase two of the project.

As PAL prepared the report, Phase three of the project was already underway. The partners held three more public events in 2019:

- One in February 2019 at Aldrich House, with a speakers' panel featuring Jim Vincent, President of the Providence Branch of the NAACP and Onna Moniz-John, former Affirmative Action Officer and Director of Public Welfare for the City of East Providence.

- In April, the project was presented at the statewide preservation conference in East Providence, in a session with Brent Leggs, Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.
- In September, Jim Vincent returned to speak on a panel that also featured Nicole Tingle, Secretary of the Providence Branch of the NAACP.

Two traveling exhibits were also produced: one based on the timeline of Rhode Island Civil Rights history and another titled "The Power of Place in Civil Rights," based on PAL's survey report.

Before the February and September meetings, RIHS education staff convened a teachers' workshop. The Society's education staff had developed elementary and middle-school level curricula on African American Civil Rights in Rhode Island and were sharing unit plans with Rhode Island teachers. The curriculum uses the subject of Civil Rights to explore historical research and reasoning. And it features other historic materials—such as film clips—that weren't included in the phase one or phase two work products.

The Struggle for African American Civil Rights in 20th-Century Rhode Island project both reflects a growing interest in documenting sites associated with African American history, as evidenced by a recent article in *The New Yorker*, "The Fight to Preserve African American History," and also contributes to that effort.

Dr. Onorato asked if the PAL suggestion is to amend nominations to include this new information. Ms. Doherty replied that it is. The report just came out in the fall. It would make sense to look at the PAL recommendations more closely and pursue the low-hanging fruit first. Dr. Brown asked if the next phase is something that the office has the capacity for, or would it be conducted with grant-funded projects? Ms. Doherty responded that it would likely be grants, but it might depend on the property in question.

Mr. Sanderson stated that RIHPHC's Ms. Doherty and Sarah Zurier, and Morgan Grefe of the RIHS deserve the credit for putting this together and adding the RIBHS to the team, and for getting the project organized and off the ground.

Mr. Sanderson made a motion that, based on Ms. Doherty's presentation, the Board recognize the excellent and groundbreaking work that has been done and offer full support for the next steps. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brown and the Board voted unanimously to approve it.

Dr. Malone stated that the presentation brought up the issue of University Heights. Ned Connors did a lot of research on University Heights, but it hasn't been listed. Lippitt Hill is an important part of the story. This would be another way to recognize that important history and perhaps do a nomination for University Heights individually.

Dr. Onorato stated that this project had a limited Civil Rights scope, but it is a good start to looking at the issue of African-American history in Rhode Island more widely. Ms. Doherty responded that they felt somewhat constrained by the grant, but the team tried to define the term "Civil Rights movement" widely to pull in some other aspects. Mr.

Sanderson stated that one could build upon a study like this and seek additional funding, promoting this work as a first step.

8. New Business

There was none.

9. Announcements

Dr. Brown reminded the Board that the Hacking Heritage “Un-Conference” will take place on Saturday, March 7th at the Silver Lake Community Center. Conversations at the conference typically center on preservation and heritage. The Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy will also lead a walk.

Mr. Loether reported that he met with the governor’s new Chief of Staff, David Ortiz. They discussed that RIHPHC State Preservation Grants are included in a general obligation bond for \$1 million and would appreciate as much support as possible.

Mr. Loether reported that the state’s historic preservation tax credit program has been extended, but no more funds have been added. The RIHPHC staff are reviewing all of the projects at historic properties that the Commerce Corporation approves for the Rebuild Rhode Island program.

Mr. Emidy reminded the board members that the annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will take place on April 25th. Board members receive complimentary registration.

Mr. Emidy announced that the next regular meeting of the State Review Board will be at 9:30am on Monday, April 6, 2020. The location has not been determined at this time.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,



Jeffrey D. Emidy
Deputy Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer