



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
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MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
July 11, 2012

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack  
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA  
Mr. Karst Hooeboom, Chairman  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir  
Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer & Executive Director

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director  
Mr. Wm. McKenzie Woodward, Principal Architectural Historian  
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Sr. Special Projects Coordinator

GUESTS

Valerie Talmage, Preserve RI  
Virginia Adams, PAL

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM  
Mr. Robert Goff  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Mr. Pieter N. Roos  
Dr. Patricia Rubertone  
Executive Director, EDC  
1 Vacant

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M., Mr. Hoozeboom, Chairman, presiding.

### 2. Minutes of June 13, 2012

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

VOTED to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2012.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported that no comments were received on the Eisenhower House Regulations approved by the Commission at the June meeting, and the regulations are now in effect.

b) Dr. Greenwood reported that Phase 2 of the investigations at Nipsachuck Battlefield will begin during the summer. The work will attempt to verify the 1675-1676 battlefield boundaries and identify Native American use of the area over time. The project is cooperating with local landowners and the Town of North Smithfield to consider future preservation of Nipsachuck sites. A public meeting was held on July 10. Representatives of the Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribes are participating in the project. The Blackstone Valley Historical Society is managing the National Park Service grant funding for the project.

### 4. Report on Historic Houses of Block Island Survey

Dr. Greenwood reported on the Historic Houses of Block Island Survey performed by Virginia Adams of the PAL through the Certified Local Government Grant that RIHPHC awarded to the Town of New Shoreham. The survey was carried out in cooperation with an initiative by Preserve Rhode Island to protect individual historic houses on Block Island.

The foundation for the survey was RIHPHC's Historic and Architectural Resources of Block Island, 1991. The PAL has drafted a National Register context statement that describes the developmental history of Block Island and outlines the development of the Island's domestic architecture from about 1660 to 1965. In the early years, Block Island was primarily devoted to agriculture. Settlement was widely dispersed, and only a few farmhouses and barns survive from the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, after improvements were made to Old Harbor in 1876, the village commerce expanded, and a variety of houses and summer cottages, boarding houses and guest hotels were built. Approximately 300 historic buildings remain. Over time, it is hoped that each of these buildings will be evaluated and possibly listed on the National Register in accordance with the Historic Houses of Block Island context statement. It is not expected that large historic districts will be nominated.

Preserve Rhode Island is working with individual property owners who are interested in preserving their historic houses. Individual National Register nominations will be prepared and historic preservation easements will be recorded.

The presentation will be followed later in the year by formal RIHPHC review of the National Register context statement and a vote to forward the document to the National Park Service.

5. 2012 "Rhody" Awards for Historic Preservation

Mr. Woodward reported on nominations for the 2012 "Rhody" Awards for Historic Preservation. The awards are presented jointly with Preserve Rhode Island, and this year's awards program will be held at Rosecliff mansion in Newport on Thursday October 18.

The RIHPHC staff evaluation of award nominations resulted in recommending:

FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

1. Eric Hertfelder, Bristol

ANTOINETTE F. DOWNING AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE

2. Jamestown Historical Society

PROJECT AWARDS

3. Blithewold Master Plan, Bristol
4. Esten-Bowen House, Burrillville
5. Rockville Mill, Hopkinton
6. Edwards Hall, University of Rhode Island, Kingston
7. Sakonnet Light, Little Compton
8. Newport Conservation Initiative, Ocean Drive, Newport
9. R.I. Cardboard Box Company, Pawtucket
10. Ladd Observatory, Brown University, Providence
11. George Wilkinson House, Providence
12. House of Hope for Thomas Wilbur Homestead and George Galen Wheeler House, Warwick

SPECIAL MENTION

- Robert O. Jones, RIHPHC

Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the 2012 "Rhody" Awards for Historic Preservation as presented.

6. Other business

There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: Wednesday September 12, 2012.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward F. Sanderson".

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director