



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

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Ms. Morgan Devlin
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA
Dr. Omur Harmansah
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Pieter N. Roos
Mr. Clark Schoettle
Mr. Jonathan Stevens, State Historic Preservation Officer

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Sr. Project Review Coordinator
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director
Ms. Virginia Hesse, Principal Historical Architect
Dr. Timothy Ives, Principal Archaeologist
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, Sr. RIDOT Reviewer
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, National Register Assistant - Heritage Aide
Mr. Jeff Rosenberg, Senior Grants Coordinator
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Sr. Special Projects Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir
Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director EDC

GUESTS

Mr. Harvey Perry
Mr. Richard Youngkin, National Register Consultant

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M., Karst Hooageboom, Chairman, presiding.

2. Minutes of January 8, 2014

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

VOTED to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2014.

3. Executive Director's Report: Edward F. Sanderson

a) Mr. Jeffrey Rosenberg, Senior Grants Coordinator, was introduced. Jeff replaces Sharon Allison who retired in 2013. Jeff is a graduate of the Roger Williams University historic preservation program, and he has worked in the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office for the last six years managing Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Grants for historic properties. The Commissioners welcomed Jeff to Rhode Island.

b) The RI State FY 2014 and 2015 budgets include full funding for current RIHPHC programs. Additional funds are provided for computer technology improvements. Governor Chafee's SFY 2015 Budget proposes bond funds for historic preservation projects and \$50 million for additional historic preservation tax credits.

c) Ms. Zurier and Ms. Hesse reported on the progress of Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief grants. Project Notification forms have been sent to the National Park Service for 21 projects approved by RIHPHC. The Commission requested RIHPHC staff to collect additional information for three projects.

Prior to discussion of individual projects, Mr. Hooageboom explained that as an employee of the National Park Service he needs to recuse himself from participation in the awarding of Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants funded through the National Park Service. Therefore Mr. Hooageboom did not participate in discussion of Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief projects, and he did not vote on the project grant awards.

Clambake Club: Further investigation has revealed that the Hurricane Sandy damage to the structure was not as severe as initially reported. A series of historic and recent photographs shows that erosion around the structure was a washout of recent fill, and the structural piers did not suffer damage. The National Park Service has advised that the Clambake Club's request for grant funding to reconstruct the property's shoreline is not eligible for funding. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Devlin, the Commission

Voted not to fund the application for the Clambake Club. Commissioners Hoozeboom, Onorato, and Roos were recorded as not voting.

Stone Lea: The historic features damaged by Hurricane Sandy include the roof, dormers, and a historic stone wall in the landscape setting. Other damage occurred to storm windows and an enclosed porch which will be repaired by the Owner using insurance proceeds. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Roos, the Commission

VOTED to approve a grant of \$131,000 the roof, dormers, and a historic stone wall in the landscape setting. Commissioner Hoozeboom was recorded as not voting.

Dunmere: The Dunmere property is significant for landscape architecture. Several landscape features were damaged by Hurricane Sandy, including a long balustrade that separates the upper lawn from the pond, a deteriorated iron gazebo that was a replacement of the original, and the pond which was filled with sand and debris. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Roos, the Commission

VOTED to approve a grant of \$85,000 to repair and restore the balustrade feature. Commissioner Hoozeboom was recorded as not voting.

Lanphere Livery Stable, Westerly: This 1885 livery stable which was later converted to a garage with chauffeurs' quarters is a historic building in the Watch Hill National Register District. The property suffered flood damage during Hurricane Sandy, but an application for a Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grant was only filed recently. The property is deteriorated and has filed an application for State and Federal historic preservation tax credits for overall rehabilitation of the historic structure. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Malone, the Commission

VOTED to approve a grant of \$52,367 to repair and restore flood-damaged areas of the first floor. Commissioner Hoozeboom was recorded as not voting.

4. State Historic Preservation Officer's Report: Jonathan Stevens

a) Mr. Stevens reported that he attended the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers in Washington, DC in February. He noted that 2016 will be the 50th anniversary of passage of the National Historic Preservation Act and plans should be made to commemorate the event (RI's state historic preservation legislation was passed in 1968 and signed by Governor John Chafee). While in Washington, he had the opportunity to discuss the World Heritage designation process for Newport with Department of the Interior officials; the Governor has appointed a Newport World Heritage Commission.

b) Mr. Stevens has been working on issues relating to State House historical collections,

such as historic battle flags of Rhode Island military units. The Governor has appointed Commissioner Onorato to the State House Restoration Society.

c) Governor Chafee and his Cabinet met at The Old State House on January 15 and had an opportunity to learn about the work of the RIHPHC.

d) Mr. Stevens reported on Governor Chafee's understanding of the important role of cultural properties within the Rhode Island economy. He is working with the RI Commerce Corporation to recognize and build on cultural assets within the state economy. Extending historic preservation tax credits and proposing bonds for cultural properties are parts of the Governor's larger initiative that includes a new position at the Commerce Corporation to work with the creative economy sector, to find funding for public art – as in the recent highway murals, and to develop wayfinding signage for cultural destinations.

Mr. Hoogeboom recalled a 1970s concept of artists creating signage and public art as an “Urban Ring” for the Providence area. Dr. Harmansah expressed interest in the work of artists to create “interventions” at historic places that could expand visitors' understanding and experience of historic sites.

5. Report on proposed 2014 State Preservation Grants Bond Issue: Morgan Devlin

Ms. Devlin reported on work by the statewide nonprofit Preserve Rhode Island to organize and lead advocacy efforts in support of Governor Chafee's proposed 2014 State Preservation Grants Bond Issue. The bond would provide \$35 million to fund a \$5 million competitive grants program open to all public historic sites plus \$30 million to be allocated to the following performing arts projects:

- Restoration of the historic Newport Opera House theater
- Improvements to Woonsocket's historic Stadium Theatre
- Improvements to Providence's historic Trinity Theatre
- New facilities for the RI Philharmonic Music School
- Restoration of Westerly's historic United Theatre

PRI has compiled a statewide list of potential grant projects and has offered testimony to the House and Senate Finance Committee hearings in support of the Governor's proposal.

6. Loan Committee Report: Mr. Schoettle

Mr. Schoettle reported that a current Borrower at 19 Third Street, Newport recently made an early payment of \$42,000, and the Borrower has requested RIHPHC approval to recalculate the remaining quarterly payments of interest and principal to reflect the early payment. The original loan amount was \$85,000 in 2011, and the current principal balance is \$30,000.

On a motion by Mr. Schoettle, seconded by Ms. Devlin, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the request.

7. National Register of Historic Places

Preliminary Approval: Perry Homestead Historic District, Margin Street, Westerly

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. The Perry Homestead Historic District is a collection of six houses arrayed along Beach and Margin Streets that comprised a cohesive residential enclave for members of the Perry family in the early 20th century. Three 19th-century houses on Margin Street were remodeled in the Colonial Revival style in the early 20th century by Charles Perry, Jr. and his sons and their wives: Harvey and Lydia and Thomas and Margaret. A fourth house was built in the Colonial/Shingle style for Arthur Perry (15 Beach) and a fifth Perry house was an 18th century farmhouse restored in the early 20th century. The sixth house is a smaller vernacular cottage built for the farm superintendent. In 1903, Charles, Jr. engaged Warren Manning to landscape the encompassing family property. Perry and Manning were also involved at this time in the development and landscaping of Wilcox Park in downtown Westerly. Manning's contribution included installation of common stone coping, the row of elms at street's edge, and trees and hedges that link the houses in a park-like setting. Arthur Shurcliff and Arthur Sylvester also made later contributions to the landscape design which now includes a fishpond, pergolas, arbors and specimen trees.

Successive generations of the Perry family, who were prominent leaders in Westerly and closely associated with the Washington Trust bank, established their houses on Margin Street and then, largely through the efforts of Charles Perry Jr. and his sons, overlaid them with an architectural and landscape character that unified the properties as a distinctive park-like residential compound. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Abbott, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for National Register nomination.

7. There was no other business.
8. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday April 9, 2014 at 9:30 AM.
9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director