



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

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
December 13, 2006

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack  
Mr. Robert Goff  
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA  
Ms. Lori Capaldi representing Saul Kaplan, Executive Director, EDC  
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
Mr. Karst Hooeboom  
Mr. George Johnson, Statewide Planning  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Mr. Jean Rondeau  
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Sharon Allison, Senior Grants Manager  
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, National Register Assistant  
Ms. Joyce Gervasio  
Ms. Marie Jemery  
Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director  
Ms. Roberta Randall, Senior historical Architect  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director  
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Special Projects Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Joseph Dias, representing Dr. Michael Sullivan, Director DEM  
Dr. James Garman, NR Review Board  
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Dr. Patricia Rubertone

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M., Mr. Williamson, presiding.

### 2. Minutes of November 8, 2006, meeting

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2006.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported welcomed Marie Jemery, RIHPHC Fiscal Manager, who is retiring. She has worked at the Commission for seven years and for the State for thirty years. Marie's work has been essential to the successful operation of the RIHPHC, and she will be missed for her outstanding work and for her friendship.

Mr. Sanderson introduced Ms. Joyce Gervasio, the new RIHPHC Fiscal Manager. Joyce is currently working at the State Office of Accounts and Controls, where she helped to develop the current State Financial System (RIFANS). Her detailed knowledge of State fiscal procedures and her personal relationships with key State finance managers will benefit her work for the RIHPHC.

b) Mr. Sanderson reported on the State FY 2008 Budget Request, and he distributed supporting documents. Like other state agencies and departments, RIHPHC was required to submit a budget request that met budget targets sets by the Budget Office of 15 percent reduction and 5 percent increase. Neither target would fund RIHPHC at the FY 2007 service level. As a result of the information submitted, the Budget Office is recommending a level of funding higher than the 5 percent increase in order to maintain the 2007 level of service.

c) Mr. Sanderson reported on the City of Pawtucket's efforts to stop demolition of the Pawtucket-Central Falls Railroad Station. The property has been determined by the National Park Service to be eligible for listing on the National Register. Mr. Sanderson has submitted a letter of support to the City of Pawtucket and attended a public hearing held by the Pawtucket City Council to consider the matter.

### 4. National Register Review Board

Dr. Malone noted that nominations posted on the RIHPHC web site are scanned to such a high resolution that they are very difficult to download. He requested staff to make the nomination documents easier to download and read.

Preliminary Nominations

## Lawton Spinning Mill #2, 20 Privilege St., Woonsocket

Mr. Emidy presented information about the property that includes a 1901 warehouse and a 1910-1911 mill designed by architect Frank Sheldon. The mill closed in 1936 and was sold for other manufacturing operations. During discussion, Dr. Malone noted that Frank Sheldon was an important mill architect and that the Lawton Mill #2 is a handsome example of his work. Ms. Capaldi noted that the brownfield program of the Economic Development Corporation might be able to assist the rehabilitation project. Following further discussion, on a motion by Dr. Malone, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for the nomination.

## Benjamin Jackson House, 115 Nayatt Road, Barrington

Mr. Emidy presented information about the property, a red brick Colonial Revival mansion designed by architect Norman Isham. A house built in 1910 on the site burned and was rebuilt in 1913. During discussion, Commissioners noted that this is a fine high-style example of its type. Following further discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for the nomination.

## House, 641 Mitchell's Lane, Middletown

Mr. Emidy presented information about the property, a 1890 Queen Anne revival farmhouse with patterned-shingle siding, bargeboards, a turned-post porch, and intact interior features. Following further discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Commission

VOTED preliminary approval for the nomination.

Mr. Grosvenor recused and did not participate in discussion or vote on the property.

## 5. Report of the Loan Committee

Mr. Goff reported for the Loan Committee on an application for 33 Stimson Avenue, Providence. The application was reviewed by Commissioners Goff, Grosvenor, and Rondeau. The historic rehabilitation work includes complete exterior restoration of this large and well-detailed Queen Anne revival home. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Rondeau, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve a loan of \$200,000 for the term of five years with interest-only quarterly payments and a lump sum repayment of the principal and the end of five years or if the property

is sold in less than five years.

6. State Preservation Grants Report

Ms. Zurier reported on the announcement of State Preservation Grants on December 6, 2006. Governor Carcieri and Mayor Avedisian joined Chairman Williamson at Warwick City Hall to announce the grants and present grant certificates to representatives of the projects. Copies of press coverage were distributed.

Ms. Zurier reported that a previous grantee has postponed their planned project and has declined the \$50,000 grant. After reviewing several options, RIHPHC staff recommends increasing the grant award to the Westerly Public Library from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in order to fully fund the Library's original request. Ms. Zurier described the Westerly Library project to restore the original reading room and showed slides illustrating the historic features that would be restored. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve an increase in the State Preservation Grant to Westerly Library from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Ms. Zurier reported on the completion of several SPG projects and showed slides to illustrate the work accomplished.

7. Other business:

There was no other business.

8. Next meeting date: The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, January 10, 2007.

9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

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