



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

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
October 13, 2010

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir
Edward F. Sanderson, Deputy SHPO vice Frederick C. Williamson

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, National Register

GUESTS

Ms. Adriana Thomas, House Policy Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Mr. Keith Stokes, Executive Director, EDC
Dr. Michael Sullivan, Director DEM
1 Vacant

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened at 9:35 A.M. Mr. Hoogeboom chaired the meeting.

2. Minutes of September 8, 2010

The Minutes of September 8, 2010 were distributed at the meeting; approval of the Minutes was deferred to November 10, 2010 to give Commissioners time to review the Minutes.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) The 33rd annual Heritage Festival was held on September 25. The site was Roger Williams Memorial on North Main Street, Providence. The event was well organized, well attended, and very successful.

b) Mr. Sanderson distributed information from the Commission's State Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request, including an annual performance measures report and a budget letter addressed to Governor Carcieri. For FY 2012, the Budget Office required agencies to prepare five versions of their operating budget, based on varying potential appropriation levels. Later in the budget cycle, the Budget Office will report back to agencies regarding the Governor's recommendations.

c) Mr. Sanderson distributed a report of actual revenue and expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2010, ended June 30, 2010.

4. National Register of Historic Places

Final Approval: Belknap School, Johnston

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. It is a one-room schoolhouse built in 1892. The schoolhouse was closed in 1938. Over the last several years, the Johnston Historical Society has restored the Belknap School, assisted by a State Preservation Grant awarded by RIHPHC.

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

VOTED to approve the National Register nomination for Belknap School.

5. Nipsachuck Battlefield Protection Project

Dr. Robinson reported on the Nipsachuck Battlefield research project funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program. The Nipsachuck area of North Smithfield and Smithfield was the site of two significant battles in 1675 and 1676 that were part of King Phillip's War between several Indian Tribes and colonists from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Plymouth colonies. Dr. Robinson prepared the grant application. The Blackstone Valley Historical Society and RIHPHC are co-grantees. Representatives of the Narragansett, Mohegan, Pequot, Nitmuck, and Wampanoag Indian Tribes are participating in the research and sharing their oral history with professional historians. Landowners also are participating. Goals of the project include developing a detailed historical narrative of the battle events based on archival research, recording oral history accounts, applying battlefield terrain analysis to attempt to locate battlefield sites, Geographic Information System computer mapping, and engaging the interest and support of landowners and local officials for further archaeological investigation and protection of battlefield resources. A by-product of the Nipsachuck research has been documentation of 17th-century land use and settlement in northern Rhode Island. The project's first phase concludes this year, and RIHPHC will apply for phase two funding for archaeological investigation of potentially sensitive areas identified in phase one research.

6. Blackstone Valley Industrial Heritage National Historical Park

Mr. Sanderson presented information about a National Park Service "Special Resource Study that is considering the creation of a new national park based on the Blackstone Valley's nationally significant role in creating industrialization in the United States, beginning at Slater Mill in 1793. The study has identified several park options, including creation of "Blackstone Valley Industrial Heritage National Historical Park" comprised of Slater Mill, Ashton Mill Village, and Slatersville Mill Village in Rhode Island; Hopedale and Whitinsville Mill Villages in Massachusetts; and the Blackstone River and Blackstone Canal. In addition, the National Park

Service would offer technical and financial assistance to historic preservation projects throughout the larger Blackstone Valley area that relate to the Park themes of the history of industrialization.

Congress designated the Blackstone River Valley as a National Heritage Corridor in 1986 and created a federal commission to receive federal funds and oversee Heritage Corridor programs and projects. Mr. Sanderson has served on the federal commission as RIHPHC's representative, and he currently chairs the federal commission. After several legislative reauthorizations, the federal commission will "sunset" in 2011. National Park designation would provide continuing federal recognition and assistance in protecting the Valley's nationally significant historical resources.

Late this year, the National Park Service will complete a final draft of the Special Resource Study and conduct public hearings to provide information about the proposals and

solicit public comments. Assuming a favorable response, Members of Congress from Rhode Island and Massachusetts will introduce legislation to create the national Park.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Next meeting date: Wednesday November 10, 2010.

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

Minutes recorded by,

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director