



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

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION July 13, 2011

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoozeboom, 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
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, National Register Assistant - Heritage Aide
Dr. Paul Robinson, Principal Archaeologist
Ms. Charlotte Taylor, Senior Archaeologist

GUESTS

Mr. Raymond Choiniere, House Policy Analyst
Katherine Cavanaugh, National Register Consultant
Jeanne Boyle, Planner, City of East Providence
Edward Connors, Chair, East Providence Historic District Commission
Mr. Bruce Lethbridge, 10-12 Garfield Street, East Providence

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM
Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Mr. Robert Goff
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Mr. Pieter N. Roos
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Mr. Keith Stokes, Executive Director, EDC
1 Vacant

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened at 9:35 A.M. Mr. Hoogeboom, Chairman, presiding.

2. Minutes of June 8, 2011

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

VOTED to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2011.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported that the FY2012 State Budget provides essentially level funding for the Commission office. He also reported on three legislative bills. Legislation to save the Historic Homeownership Tax Credit was introduced but has not received a hearing in the House Finance Committee. Similarly, legislation to re-start the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit received a hearing by the House Finance Committee but has been held for further consideration. Legislation to create a I-195 Development Commission has been enacted; it is unclear how RIHPHC's right to review the design of proposed development of I-195 surplus land will be coordinated with the new I-195 Development Commission.

b) Mr. Sanderson reported that Paul Robinson, Principal Archaeologist, will retire from the RIHPHC in August. Paul has served the State for 32 years, and his work has changed the ways that archaeological resources are understood and protected in Rhode Island. Paul's many contributions to the field include his critical understanding of our state's archaeological contexts and his authorship of "Native American Archaeology in Rhode Island," published by RIHPHC in 2002. Paul's many projects have identified and preserved over two thousand significant archaeological sites. Most recently he has led efforts to save a 900-year-old Narragansett Indian Village located on Rhode Island's southern shore from destruction, and he is leading a project to find and document two battlefields in Northern Rhode Island dating from King Phillip's War, 1676-1677. Paul has worked closely with Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officer John Brown and with professional and academic colleagues on many scholarly projects. After his retirement from RIHPHC, Paul will teach at RI College. We have requested permission to advertise and refill the position and it is included in the FY2012 State budget. During the vacancy, Senior Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor will manage archaeological programs for RIHPHC.

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, which was unanimously seconded, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to congratulate Dr. Paul Robinson on his 32 years of excellent State Service, to thank him for his outstanding and effective leadership in Rhode Island's archaeology programs, and to

wish him great success and enjoyment in his future endeavors.

c) Dr. Robinson reported that legislation to revise the historic cemeteries law has been enacted. Historic cemeteries are registered and regulated by local governments; however most cities and towns have not enacted historic cemeteries ordinances. An important provision in the new amendments authorizes RIHPHC to adopt a regulation for registration and regulation of historic cemeteries to be followed when no local ordinance exists. Adoption of a historic cemeteries regulation provides RIHPHC with an opportunity to clarify issues relating to documentation or historic cemeteries, archaeological requirements for determining boundaries of historic cemeteries, and an effective process for reviewing construction and excavation that affects historic cemeteries and unmarked historic burials. Dr. Robinson distributed a memorandum outlining topics to be addressed in RIHPHC's regulation.

During discussion, Dr. Onorato expressed interest in the level of documentation for recording historic cemeteries. Mr. Rhodes noted that cemeteries could be included in the State GIS database. Mr. Sanderson noted that he and Dr. Robinson would work on drafting a regulation during July and requested the Commission's authorization to issue a draft regulation for public comment. On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to authorize staff to issue a draft historic cemeteries regulation for public comment following circulation of the draft to Commissioners.

4. National Register of Historic Places

Final Approval: Phillipsdale Historic District, East Providence

Dr. Greenwood introduced the nomination, and he noted that the nomination was funded by a "Preservation Is Local" grant from RIHPHC. Located on the east side of the Seekonk River in northern East Providence, the Phillipsdale Historic District is a small mill village containing approximately 80 acres of land and water, including three industrial sites and a mill pond, a dam, a railroad bridge, 75 workers' houses built by the manufacturing companies, 30 private houses, 3 former stores, a church, and a former school. The district encompasses the largest concentration of surviving historic resources built within Phillipsdale during its period of significance (1883-1958) primarily by three manufacturers: Richmond Paper Company, American Electrical Works, and Glenlyon Bleacheries. The district contains a total of 114 contributing historic resources and 11 noncontributing (most of which represent additional housing and commercial construction within the past 50 years). The district has a distinctive visual identity and sense of place, and good integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association.

Phillipsdale, as a defined community with its own identity separate from Rumford, did not exist prior to 1893, although several locations within the area were settled more than two centuries earlier. Richmond Paper Company arrived in Phillipsdale in 1883 and constructed a paper mill, a dam and a mill pond, which precipitated Phillipsdale's development as a distinct mill village.

Three other manufacturers, American Electrical Works, Glenlyon Bleacheries, and Washburn Wire Company, were responsible for further development, which primarily occurred between 1893 and 1927. These manufacturers were among East Providence's largest employers and made major contributions to their various industries.

Construction of workers' housing within the district reflects the paternalistic intentions of the owners of American Electrical Works and Glenlyon Bleacheries who sought to develop an attractive community for their employees. American Electrical Works housing consists of rows of identical houses, whereas Glenlyon was influenced by the "model village" concept prevalent in both New England and England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and therefore took a more heterogeneous route with its housing, some of which was architect-designed.

During discussion, Mr. Hoogeboom recognized East Providence City Planner Jeanne Boyle who expressed the City's support for the nomination. Mr. Bruce Lethbridge, 10-12 Garfield Street, East Providence also spoke. Mr. Lethbridge has lived in Phillipsdale neighborhood for 75 years and believes that Garfield Street is part of the neighborhood and should be included in the National Register nomination. Dr. Greenwood responded that the Phillipsdale neighborhood is larger than the area being nominated as a historic district. The six houses on Garfield Street had been considered during preparation of the nomination; however, the oldest houses on Garfield Street were moved to their current locations after 1895 and do not have a connection with the industrial history of the area. (According to Mr. Lethbridge, the houses were moved to East Providence from the Fox Point neighborhood of Providence.) Therefore, Garfield Street was not considered to be part of the historical significance that is documented in the national Register nomination.

Mr. Hoogeboom suggested that more research could be done in the future and conceivably could lead to amendments to the current Phillipsdale Historic District. However, based on the research completed to date the nomination seems to be thoroughly documented and to meet the National Register criteria. He suggested that Garfield Street be considered for preliminary consideration.

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

VOTED to approve the Phillipsdale Historic District National Register nomination.

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

VOTED preliminary approval for consideration of Garfield Street for future nomination or as an amendment to the Phillipsdale Historic District.

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

5. Discussion of State Preservation Awards

Mr. Woodward presented information about the 2011 Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation. Following review by RIHPHC staff in consultation with Preserve RI staff, the following awards are recommended:

Cecelia A. St Jean, West Warwick, Downing award for volunteer service
Patrick M. Malone, Barrington, Williamson award for professional service
James & Marilyn Winoker, Cranston, Williamson award for professional service
M. Adele Anthony, homeowner award, Capt. Peter Greene House, Warwick
Tom Silvia & Shannon Chandley, homeowner award, Wickford House, North Kingstown
Stillwater Mill, Burrillville, project award
North Light, Block Island
Mercantile Block, Providence, project award
Chateau-sur-Mer, Newport, project award
Saint Thomas More Parish, Narragansett, project award
The Steel Yard & One Sims Street, project award
Edward Everett Hale House, South Kingstown, project award
Pawtucket Hair Cloth Mill, Central Falls, project award
Rhode Island Tool Company, Providence, project award
East Bay Bike Path Signs, Barrington, education
Rhode Island State House Restoration Society, stewardship

Following Mr. Woodward's presentation and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Grosvenor, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the list of 2011 Rhody Awards.

6. Other business

There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: Wednesday September 14, 2011.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director