



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

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
April 13, 2011

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Edward F. Sanderson, SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, National Register Assistant
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Sr. Projects Coordinator

GUESTS

Mr. Raymond Choiniere, House Policy Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Dr. Patrick Malone
Mr. Keith Stokes, Executive Director, EDC
Ms. Janet Quoit, Director DEM
1 Vacant

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes of February 9, 2011

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

VOTED to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2011.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) Ms. Zurier reported on planning for the annual statewide historic preservation conference scheduled for April 30 on Block Island.

b) Mr. Sanderson reported that the Governor has recommended level funding for RIHPHC in the FY 2012 budget.

c) Mr. Sanderson reported that the Federal budget continuing resolution for FY 2011 includes level funding for state historic preservation offices like RIHPHC, and the President's FY 2012 budget request includes a modest increase in funding for state historic preservation offices. Unfortunately, funding for Save America's Treasures restoration grants and Preserve America education and planning grants has been eliminated in the FY 2011 continuing resolution and is threatened in FY 2012. Federal funding for national heritage areas like the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor is cut in FY 2011 and FY2012. The Rhode Island Congressional Delegation is aware of these issues and supports federal funding for the full range of historic preservation programs.

d) RI Coastal Resource Management Council hearings regarding development of the Salt Pond archaeological site have concluded, and final briefs have been submitted. CRMC review and final action has not been scheduled. Testimony about the importance of the archaeological site was provided by Commissioner Morenon, Dr. Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut), and Dr. Paul Robinson and Edward Sanderson from RIHPHC.

e) Mr. Grosvenor made a presentation about the historical importance of Dr. John Clarke in securing Rhode Island's colonial charter and plans to redevelop an area behind the Newport Colony House into Dr. John Clarke Square. The colonial town spring was located here, but in the twentieth century it has been occupied by a gasoline station and crossing streets. The plan is to purchase and demolish the gasoline station, and create a public open-space dedicated to John Clarke and the principle of religious liberty as provided in Rhode Island colonial charter.

4. National Register of Historic Places

Preliminary Consideration: Appleby-Mowry House, Smithfield

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. The Appleby-Mowry House was built about 1750 as a three-bay 2 ½ story farmhouse. It was later enlarged in the early 19th-century to create the appearance of a five-bay colonial house, and there is a mid 19th-century rear addition and porch. On the interior, some historic framing and woodwork remains, and some woodwork has been replaced. The house sits on 28 acres of open land, remaining from a once larger farm. A farm outbuilding remains; the stone foundations of a historic barn also remain; and the property includes the site of an 18th-century sawmill and forge. The property is owned by the Town of Smithfield which plans to lease it for agricultural use.

During discussion, several Commissioners commented on a schematic plan for future garden and agricultural use of the property. Commissioners noted the schematic plan was not compatible with the historic character of the colonial farm and suggested that the plan be revised.

Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Hagen, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for nomination of the property.

Preliminary Consideration: 423 Purgatory Road, Middletown

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. The house was built in 1907, but the architect has not been identified. An original porch has been enclosed, and another porch has been added. During RIHPHC staff review, several reviewers suspected that additional alterations may have occurred although further research would be needed. The house generally retains the character of a comfortable early 20th-century residence, but RIHPHC staff review was not able to identify particular areas of National Register significance.

During discussion, Dr. Onorato expressed interest in the house but his opinion was that it did not meet National Register criteria for significance. After further discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission

VOTED that based on the preliminary information currently available the house does not appear to be eligible for listing on the National Register.

Mr. Grosvenor did not participate in the discussion and did not vote.

6. Other business

There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: Wednesday May 11, 2011.
8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director