

Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission Conservation and Presentation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of May 21, 2012

1. Co-chairman Jonathan Stevens called the meeting of the Conservation and Preservation Committee of the RI Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission to order at 9:00 A.M. In attendance were commissioners Ruth Taylor, Gwenn Stearn, Co-chair, Steve Lubar, Paul Caranci, Alison Maxell and Ken Yellis. Also present were Ron Reneau, Artie Jochman, Marco Sciapa from the Department of Administration and staff architect Ginger Hess from the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

2. A discussion ensued regarding the requirements for converting the State House, room 143 into a space suitable to house the Colonial Charter and other documents of historical significance. The Committee members and guests toured rooms 140 (Proposed Visitor's Center) and 143 (Proposed Charter Room) space to better understand the conversion needs and requirements. The following issues were discussed:

- Room 140 – there is an air conditioning unit that is both noisy and aesthetically unpleasing. While it was deemed acceptable as is, thought will be given to box it in and insulate it to reduce the noise level and to keep it out of sight.**

- Gwenn Stearn noted that the climate control needs for the Charter**

Room (143) will need to be no higher than 70 degrees with humidity of 55% (+/- 5%) in order to preserve the documents. The temperature and relative humidity should remain as constant as possible keeping the temperature variation to no more than $\pm 2^{\circ}$ and relative humidity variation to no more than $\pm 3\%$ in any 24 hour period.

- Marco will determine the capacity of each room for future reference purposes. He also believes that there should be no problem blocking off the door to the Lt. Governor's suite without violating fire code. After checking the Lt. Governor's side of the door he concluded that bringing appropriate air climate control to room 143 should not be problematic.**

- Because the door from the hallway to the Charter Room will need to be closed, there will be a need install security cameras inside the Charter Room with live feeds to the Capitol Police desk.**

- The carpeting as well as the existing drop ceiling is fine. The ceiling should be painted a dark color and the lights need to be replaced with track lighting with a dimmer switch.**

- A stand-alone wood framed partition will be need to be installed about 3' within the doorway entrance to serve as a gateway marker to the exhibition space, with lighting and lettering welcoming visitors to the space, while serving to create an access/egress foot traffic directing them through the Charter Room. This free-standing unit could be bolted to the floor. Prison Industries should be able to manufacture these units.**

- At some point a sprinkler system will be added to the room creating a need to provide some type of way to protect the exhibited document**

casing from potential water exposure.

- Ms. Hesse has an intern coming in the first week of June and will assign the intern to work on Room 143 and produce a set of renderings showing potential options for the finished space for the next committee meeting.**
- Steve Lubar will be able to provide (lend) a humidity monitor to the Commission for use in the space.**

Following is a Summary of Action Items Based on the Discussion:

- Security Cameras and alarm system to provide 24/7 monitoring at the desk of the Capitol Police (Marco)**
- Lettering for the door window (Marco)**
- Color for the painting of the drop ceiling (Steve)**
- Potential designer to provide an estimate to draft preliminary design of space (Steve)**
- Remove existing ceiling lights and add new track lighting with dimmer switch (Marco)**
- Determine lighting needs and provide specifications to Marco. (Ruth)**
- Flags will be placed by the doors to each room 140 and 143 to note significance of the rooms. (TBD)**
- Find out when room 143 will be available for rehabilitation (Jonathan)**

3. Other Business

- Upon a motion by Steve Lubar, seconded by Jon Stevens, the**

Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2012

· Upon a motion by Ken Yellis, seconded by Jon Stevens, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2012

4. Next meeting

· The Committee will meet again on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. at the State Archives.

5. Adjournment

· The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Approved June 21, 2012