

Exhibition Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of

September 5, 2012

1. Co-chairman Jonathan Stevens called the meeting of the Exhibition Committee of the RI Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission to order in the Secretary of State's Public Information Center Conference Room at 2:00 P.M. In attendance were commissioners Ruth Taylor, Jon Stevens, Co-Chair, Gwenn Stearn, Co-chair, Steve Lubar, Paul Caranci, Jennifer Wood and Ken Yellis.

2. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Yellis, the minutes of the June 21, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as printed.

3. Commissioner Stearn provided the members with an update of the activities regarding the restoration of the "Charter Room."

a. All cost associated with the restoration of that room will be absorbed by the Department of Administration using funds from an existing State House restoration capitol bond fund.

i. Restoration work will include:

1. Painting of the walls

2. Raising the ceiling by 2 or 3 feet

3. Installation of track lighting for exhibition purposes

4. Re-lettering of the door

5. Installation of temperature and humidity monitoring system

6. Installation of a new HVAC system

7. Installation of a security system with monitoring cameras

8. The carpet will remain as is but may be cleaned

b. The Committee will need to provide specifications for the track lighting and perhaps the security and HVAC system.

c. Co-Chairman Stevens reported that the DOA is fully engaged in, and excited about this project as far as all items that DOA can perform. Some items that they can't perform will require that we employ the bidding process and that will require that we prepare detailed specs. Preparing the specs by September 21, 2012 will give us a very good chance of having all items acquired, and work being completed by the end of April or early May 2013.

d. Commissioner Lubar suggested that Commissioner Stevens contact Kathy Abernathy of Abernathy Lighting in North Providence. This museum quality lighting company may be able to spec out the track lighting requirements. He also suggested the John Smith of the RISC staff be contacted for assistance in preparing the design specs. Further, James Hall of the Providence Preservation Society may also be able to assist in this regard.

e. The Secretary of State has expressed interest in allowing the Commission to use four oak display cases that are used by his office for use in the Charter Room. The group viewed the two empty cases located on the 2nd floor center stairwell and deemed them appropriate. Some thought was given to potential uses of these cases with a suggestion that they be used to display items related to RI government history and the origins of the idea of religious liberty. Other suggestions and ideas were also discussed. Co-Chair Stearn suggested that we might issue a call for nominations for ideas and

documents to display.

f. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of digitizing some documents for future use in rotating displays.

4. A working group was organized for the purpose of issuing a call for documents. Commissioners Taylor and Yellis volunteered to help out and suggested that Commissioners C. Morgan Grefe and Ted Widmar be asked for assistance. The group will consider placing the call to repositories as well as in newspapers since many documents might still be in private hands. The group needs to issue the call before the end of 2012 in order to keep the calendar of events on track.

5. Finally, the Committee engaged in a discussion regarding the use of the outer wall of the inner Charter Room. Some of the thoughts were that the wall should contain a still photo, not a video, so as to not draw a large crowd that might block the doorway. It could be a 17th century mural type image with a static welcome message in vinyl.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.

Approved 2/22/2013