

**Meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Rhode Island Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission
Monday, December 3, 2012**

1. The meeting was called to order was Chairman Jon Stevens at 10:03 A.M. with the following people in attendance: Jonathan Stevens (Governor), Ruth Taylor (Newport Historical), Morgan Grefe (Rhode Island Historical), Roseanna Gorham (private citizen), Paul Caranci (Deputy Secretary of State), Gwenn Stearn (State Archivist), SueEllen Kroll (RI Council for the Humanities), Betty Capozzi (State House Restoration Society), Al Klyberg (private citizen), Eric Hertfelder (private citizen), Jess Unger, (Governor; Staff) Barnaby Evans (WaterFire), Randall Edgar (Providence Journal)

2. Commissioner Caranci provided an overview of the Visitor Center funding efforts to date including a request for \$17,000 from Roger Williams University and \$33,000 in-kind contribution from J & W University.

3. Chairman Stevens explained that an announcement follow a briefing of legislative leaders regarding the plans for the Charter Room proposal. At the urging of Jennifer Wood, Lt. Governor Roberts will facilitate a meeting with Secretary Mollis and the legislative leaders. Assuming completion of this task, an announcement may be held in mid-January. Commissioner Capozzi noted that the Newsletter that Jess distributed contains all the talking points for an announcement.

4. Commissioner Stevens provided a handout summarizing

conceptual ideas for the Gala and Open House events at the State House. After significant discussion it was determined that there should be a three-tiered event, tentatively scheduled for June 22, 2013 pending appropriate approvals from Waterfire, the City of Providence, etc., as follows:

a. Open House/Family Day – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Ribbon cutting during this window; Governor’s reception in the State Room. Provide tours of the State House. This event will be kicked off with a heritage walk from the Landing Site on Gano Street to the State House (or Roger Williams National Park) Commissioner Kroll noted that new Gano Street signage will be up by then, marking the site of the original landing.

b. Gala Event in the State House – 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

c. Waterfire (conditioned upon sponsorship and approvals - Barnaby Evans acknowledges that the tides will work for a lighting on the 22nd, but he needs to secure permits from the city and a sponsor before committing to the date.) - 8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

d. Additional discussion of the June 22nd event included the following ideas:

- i. Consider the formal event as an opportunity for fundraising efforts**
- ii. Distribute “thank you” tickets for the Gala to sponsors**
- iii. Assign a committee to assume responsibility for coordinating the workers at the events. (Does it make sense for the same people who are planning the formal event to also plan the open house?)**
- iv. Tie-ins with event on Sunday, July 7th at the 1st Baptist Church**
- v. Separate the John Barry event to be held either before or after the**

Gala on Saturday. Also consider him to speak as a lead up to the event on June 22nd.

vi. Taylor: fundraising strategy – use our assets. Sell access to people like John Barry who have interesting ideas about the Charter

vii. Importance of bringing an event to Newport as well

viii. Plan to have the Exhibit installed in time for the Open House on the 22nd

ix. Seek out a headliner for the Gala

x. Need for sponsors for the events

xi. Determine a decent ticket price for the events

xii. Consider what the guest list might look like; need to sell statewide

xiii. Our planned event will be happening in the middle of the Newport Flower Show, but not the night of their Gala (Friday 6/21). Could be good timing for us as John Barry could speak on the afternoon of 6/21 (at the Newport Flower show)

xiv. Bring in connection between Clarke/Williams and Newport/Providence

xv. Barry could stay after to be a guest of honor at the Gala on 6/22

xvi. Commissioner Taylor suggested that the White Family Foundation might be interested in sponsoring a procession from the Gano Street landing to the State House

xvii. Add event staff requests to portfolio when soliciting sponsorship from Universities

5. Barnaby Evans supplements the WaterFire presentation that he gave on November 19th adding the connection to the 100th anniversary of a suffragette march on Washington D.C.

- a. There are many natural RI connections to this new historical tie-in (including a suffragette rally at Marble House)
- b. King Charles II granted the Charter – presenting an opportunity to incorporate the King’s Edict granting the King Charles Spaniels access to any event in England. Evans suggested having the House and Senate debate the granting of an exemption to the leash laws for the day to draw attention to the activities of the Commission relating to the Open House.

6. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Upon a motion by Paul Caranci, seconded by Eric Hertfelder, the minutes of the October 25, 2012 joint meeting of the Executive and Exhibition Committees were approved with the following changes: the titles for Eric Hertfelder and Rosanna Gorham were changed to private citizen.
- b. Upon a motion by Paul Caranci, seconded by Eric Hertfelder, the minutes of the November 19, 2012 joint meeting of the Executive and Exhibition Committees were approved with the following changes: the titles for Eric Hertfelder and Rosanna Gorham were changed to private citizen.

7. The next meeting was scheduled for 12/17 at 11:30 at Providence Revolving Fund (372 West Fountain Street)

8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.