

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – June 1, 2005

Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House (Newport Historical Society)

82 Touro Street

Newport, R.I.

Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Michael Hebert, Leonard Panaggio and Gwenn Stearn, Coordinator

Not attending: Allison Cywin, Donna Longo DiMichele, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Margaret Long, Marlene Lopes, David Maslyn, and Marilyn Massaro.

Meeting called to order: 10:20 a.m.

Scott Loehr, the new Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society welcomed Board members. Bert Lippincott, Reference Librarian, then gave brief comments on the facilities and holdings of the Society. The purchase by the Jamestown Historical Society of the ‘Conanicut Purchase’ document (auctioned at Swann Galleries) was discussed, and mention made of the State Archives’ role in researching its non-public record status and in alerting Jamestown as to its imminent sale.

I Minutes of the meeting May 4, 2005

Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting minutes were not approved.

II Introduction of new Board members Margaret (Peggy) Long and Michael Hébert

Stearn introduced Michael Hebert, Supervising Historic Preservation Specialist/ Archaeologist, with the Dept. of Transportation, Cultural Resources Unit. Although not present, she noted that new Board member, Peggy Long is the Scituate Town Clerk.

Stearn also asked a member of the public, present at the meeting, to introduce herself and to join the discussions—Lisa Walling is Reference Librarian at the Newport Public Library.

III Planning for Rhode Island Archives Week (November 6-12, 2005)

Stearn passed out a web handout from the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHRC) website that contained suggestions for raising awareness of Archives Week. She also provided a brief synopsis of past RI efforts in celebration of Archives Week. Discussion ensued regarding approaches to further expand efforts for promoting and celebrating Archives Week in Rhode Island. Members' suggestions included:

- Exhibit at State Archives of loans from other repositories.**

- **Press release to promote activities and raise the profiles of RI's historical records repositories (HRR).**
- **State Archives to act as a clearinghouse through its website.**
- **Help HRR publicize on the web for Archives Week.**
- **Continue to use the poster from previous years.**
- **Continue to provide the handout that includes the list of HRR.**
- **Distribute the poster and handout in a mailing to HRR.**
- **Seek media contacts.**
- **Improve the look of the poster. Use color or change the design.**
- **Use the web to publicize Archives Week & highlight treasures of participating HRR.**
- **Handouts should also be distributed to hotels and tourism venues.**

In summary, HRR should be encouraged to hold open houses/exhibits at their institutions, to use the RIHRAB website to promote events, seek out the press to publicize the events, continue to provide handouts and posters to the HRR, print the poster in color, use the Board's website for announcements, and plan a special event to kick off Archives Week (gallery night type event, reception).

Further discussion considered how to expose students to museums and archives and in making the connection between what repositories do (collecting and documenting history) and what the public can do on a personal level (genealogy and collecting).

IV Old business

· Board grant application to the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC)

Stearn reports that the grant application for the RIHRAB Historical Records Regrant and Training Project has been completed and submitted. Details of its components are summarized. The grant will be considered for funding at the NHPRC November meeting.

· NHPRC funding crisis update

The signs and feedback from Washington, DC remain encouraging that some level of funding will be restored to NHPRC in FY06.

V News and announcements (added to the agenda)

Mark Brown announced that Brown University has hired Harriette Hemmasi to become the Joukowsky Family University Librarian of Brown University. She was formerly Executive Associate Dean of Libraries at Indiana University, Bloomington.

VI Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Bert Lippincott conducted a brief tour of the library.

Read and approved September 7, 2005