

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – May 3, 2006

Scituate Town Hall – Council Chamber

195 Danielson Pike

North Scituate, R.I.

Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Michael Hébert, Peggy Long, and Gwenn Stearn, Coordinator

Not attending: Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Marlene Lopes, David Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro, and Leonard Panaggio

Also attending: Elliott Caldwell

Meeting called to order: 10:30 a.m.

I Minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes is deferred.

II Introduction of Ms. Elliott Caldwell, Project Archivist/Outreach Coordinator for the Historical Records Regrant and Training Project

Stearn introduced Elliott Caldwell who began as Project Archivist on May 1st. Ms. Caldwell previously worked at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, the Tangier American Legation Museum in Morocco, at Boston College on the Tip O'Neill papers, has consulted for the new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. She has taught librarianship and special collections courses as an adjunct professor at URI.

III Historical Records Regrant and Training Project

Stearn reported on progress to date. A press release about the project was issued in

February through the Secretary of State's Office, as well as appearing on the State Archives'

website. As a consequence, she received more than a dozen inquiries. Among these was a call from the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor about making the Basics of Archives (BACE) course available to historical societies in the Blackstone Valley region, including several in Massachusetts. With Caldwell now in post, first orders of business are for her to familiarize herself with the grant project proposal and the BACE course. A mailing to repositories will follow, and the "Repositories" and "Recordkeepers" listservs will be established. Because the project started later than anticipated, Board meeting dates for reviewing repositories' grant applications will need to be revised. Stearn reminded Board members that under federal guidelines, only repositories that allow

public access to their holdings are eligible for grants. In detailed discussion each member provides input on what might constitute 'public access' for purposes of eligibility.

IV National Historical Publications & Records Commission funding crisis

Stearn informed members that the NHPRC has again this year been zero-funded in President Bush's proposed budget. A national call went out to the 'historical community' to write letters of support to the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, HUD & Related Agencies. The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) urged including an appeal for funding their initiative, the Partnership for the American Historical Record, which would provide formula-based funding directed to the states' Historical Records Advisory Boards. Stearn distributed a copy of the letter she sent as State Archivist and on the Board's behalf. Members suggested additional means to garner support for NHPRC, including disseminating information on the Board's website, through the listserv, and to consider a petition.

V News and announcements

Stearn reported that CoSA had sponsored a Hurricane Conference, post hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. One outcome has been an emergency planning and preparedness initiative, with information on

the CoSA website about a framework for statewide emergency planning. May 1 has been designated as “MayDay”, and a series of possible initiatives and activities suggested.

VI Adjournment

Thanks are extended to Peggy Long for hosting the meeting.

Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Read and approved without amendment at the meeting of September 9, 2006.