

# **Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board**

**Minutes of Meeting – March 5, 2008**

**Rhode Island State Archives**

**337 Westminster Street**

**Providence, RI**

**Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Russell Franks, Stephen Grimes, Michael Hebert, Marlene Lopes, Gwenn Stearn, chair.**

**Not attending: Donna DiMichele, Jonathan Galli, Peggy Long, David Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro.**

**Also attending: Elliott Caldwell, Project Archivist.**

**Meeting called to order: 10:05 a.m.**

**Stearn formally introduced new Board member Russell Franks, who has recently become the Librarian for Special Collections at Providence College. Franks is a 2007 URI-GSLIS graduate, who also worked on two RIHRAB regrant projects: for Slater Mill Historic Site and the Historical Society of Smithfield. Board members introduced themselves to Franks.**

**I Preserving the American Historical Record Act (PAHR)  
initiative**

**This legislation is to be introduced in the US House of Representatives. Additional sponsors are still being sought. Stearn reported that she had written letters to the RI House and Senate delegation about the initiative. Possible actions were suggested and discussed. Further discussion took place about the PAHR funding formula and activities that would be enabled if the legislation were to pass.**

## **II News and announcements**

**Lopes announced that on April 23rd a cultural delegation from the Republic of Cape Verde will arrive in RI, including the head of the National Library and several scholars. Cape Verde has established a well-regarded National Library/Archives. RI College will host a get together at Special Collections.**

**Stearn requested members review and amend their contact information on the 2008 Roster. The RIHRAB stationary has been updated to show Franks as a member and Panaggio as Member Emeritus. The RIHRAB website is also currently being updated, and there will now be a link to the Board's agendas and minutes filed with the Secretary of State under the Open Meetings Act.**

**Stearn remarked that the IMLS has awarded grants to nineteen (19) states under their Connecting to Collections initiative. Rhode Island's statewide disaster planning project (Protecting the Past – RI) was among them. It will begin in early May with an OLIS/State**

**Archives organizing meeting and the formation of a Steering Committee.**

**Stearn extended thanks to Hebert for the information that the RI Historical Society had begun charging \$5.00 to non-member RI residents in order to use the Library. Under RI General Law this is prohibited—because of the state appropriation/grant they receive. The \$5.00 charge was subsequently dropped.**

### **III May 7th meeting venue**

**Discussion takes place about meeting in a place other than the State Archives, as per the Board's strategic plan. Possible venues were suggested, including the Supreme Court Judicial Records Center in Pawtucket.**

### **IV Adjournment**

**Hebert moved to adjourn. Civins seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.**

**Read and approved September 3, 2008**