

# **Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board**

**Minutes of Meeting – November 4, 2009**

**Rhode Island State Archives**

**337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903**

**Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Russell Franks, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Michael Hébert, Peggy Long, David Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro, Gwenn Stearn, chair.**

**Not attending: Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Marlene Lopes.**

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

**I Minutes of meetings: January 7, 2009**

**Maslyn moved to approve meeting minutes. Franks seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.**

**II Board reappointments and 2010 meeting dates**

**Stearn stated that there four terms will expire on January 4th: David Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro, Stephen Grimes and Jonathan Galli. All have agreed to serve another term. Stearn will write to the Governor requesting their reappointment.**

**Members agreed on the following meeting dates for calendar year 2010: January 6, March 3, May 5, June 2 (if required), September 1, and November 3.**

**Long moved to approve the 2010 meeting dates. Franks seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.**

### **III NHPRC grant for review**

**Stearn informed members of Brown University's Special Collections and University Archives application to NHPRC for a project entitled "Revealing Brown's Hidden Archival and Manuscript Collections". The application will require Board review. She asked members to provide commentary in addition to their scoring. Stearn explained that she provides NHPRC with an average of the scores and a summary of the comments. The grant application will be sent to members by email and responses are due three weeks from receipt.**

### **IV News and announcements**

**Brown informed members that he received information and a copy of a petition in reference to Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's efforts to close the Massachusetts State Library. Galli asked for a copy for distribution to genealogists.**

**Stearn told the Board that she had more information regarding the NHPRC grant to Heritage Harbor Museum (HHM). She said it was granted by legislative earmark and the Board did not therefore review the application. It received 100% funding with no cost-share. A copy of the project's first report had been sent to her. Maslyn express concern that the project would not properly attribute credit for the contributions of targeted repositories and that the digital surrogates created by HHM would imply that the records were part of their holdings. Stearn remarked that if necessary, she would write to HHM, with a cc: to NHPRC, that proper acknowledgements be made.**

**Maslyn informed members that an authorized biography of Claiborne Pell was in progress, with an emphasis on the person and not politics. The author, G. Wayne Miller, presently on leave of absence as a reporter with the Providence Journal, is seeking stories about the Senator. The biography has been authorized by the Pell family and an article about the effort appeared in the September 23, 2009 issue of the Providence Phoenix.**

## **V Strategic plan review**

**The Board reviewed and discussed the strategic plan, revising goals, removing strategies achieved, and making revisions to other strategies. Stearn will incorporate the revisions and the plan will be reviewed and discussed further at the January 6, 2010 meeting.**

## **VI Adjournment**

**Galli moved to adjourn. Franks seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**

**Read and approved 1/6/2010.**