

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – January 4, 2012

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Mark Brown, Donna Longo DiMichele, Michael Hebert, Russell Franks, Stephen Grimes, Marlene Lopes, Marylyn Massaro, and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Jonathan Galli, Peggy Long, and Dave Maslyn.

Meeting called to order: 10:15 a.m.

I Minutes of meeting – November 2, 2011

Franks moved to approve the minutes. Massaro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

II Presentation on the Rhode Island Treasures digitization

partnership project

Karen Quinn, State Law Librarian and Tom Evans, State Librarian

Quinn and Evans presented information about the Rhode Island Treasures digitization project to the Board. Its goal was to create a free online resource of digitally scanned historical materials relating to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Materials were provided by the State Library and the State Law Library. The planning and implementation of the project were outlined and online access was demonstrated. Among the documents and publications assembled and digitized for the project were the Index to the Acts and Resolves of the General Assembly from 1758-1899, Annual Reports of the Judiciary from 1969-2010, and the General Court of Trials Record Book A (1724). The project was funded by a LORI grant from the Office of Library and Information Services through the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and funded by the grants to states program under the Library Services and Technology Act. The imaged publications and records are accessible from the HELIN consortium **Digital Commons** (<http://helindigitalcommons.org/lawarchive/>) with additional links to be established on the websites of the State Library (<http://sos.ri.gov/library>) and the State Law Library (<http://www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/SupremeCourt/StateLawLibrary>).

The Board discussed the existence of other collaborative digitization projects and Evans commented that he had surveyed academic and public libraries before commencing with this project.

III Report on Protecting the Past – RI project

DiMichele reported that Theresa Woodmansee was hired as the new project manager. Woodmansee has worked in the past for the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Preserve RI, the Little Compton Historical Society, Mount Hope Farm, and the Governor Lippitt House Museum. DiMichele also reported that the project Steering Committee will meet next week to finalize a schedule for training and programs to be offered going forward.

IV U.S. Newspaper/National Digital Newspaper Program information

Administered by the RI Historical Society with \$370,877 in funding from NEH, 450,000 newspaper pages were microfilmed under the original program. The newspapers were cataloged into a national database maintained by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), and the microfilm copies are generally available anywhere in the country through interlibrary loan. The follow-on National Digital Newspaper Program that began in 2004, aims to digitize newspapers. No grants have yet been awarded to Rhode Island. Stearn will follow-up with the RIHS to ascertain whether they have plans to pursue a grant.

V. News and announcements

Stearn reported that the NHPRC received 5 million dollars in funding from Congress for FY2012, a \$2 million reduction, but a victory

considering reductions and zero funding for other federal programs. She will email the funding figures for other humanities programs of interest to the Board.

DiMichele reported that Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks is the 2012 title for Reading Across Rhode Island. The kickoff for the program will be on January 22nd at the Newman Congregational Church in Rumford. The event takes place from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and the author will be present. For further information see RIBooks.org

Massaro informed members that sets of the Roger Williams Park Museum Bulletin (1905-1929) are being collated for donation to libraries and repositories. She inquired about a conduit for making announcements when the sets are ready for distribution. DiMichele mentioned she could forward announcements to academic, state, and public libraries. Stearn will forward the announcement to other repositories.

VI Adjournment

Brown moved to adjourn. Massaro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

Amended and approved March 7, 2012