

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – September 4, 2013

**State House – Public Information Conference Room (Room 38)
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903**

Attending: Donna DiMichele, Russell Franks, Michael Hebert, Marlene Lopes, and Gwenn Stearn, Chair.

Not attending: Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Peggy Long, David Maslyn, and Marilyn Massaro.

Also attending: Theresa Woodmansee.

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

I Minutes of meeting – November 7, 2012 and May 8, 2013

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

**II Information on the HELIN led initiative for a Rhode Island
Digital Repository
– Russell Franks & Marlene Lopes**

Franks distributed handouts emanating from HELIN: Summary of

Workshop held on 5/23/2013 and Summary of the meeting held on 6/26/2013. He reported that as a consequence of these gatherings, a 15 member planning committee would be constituted to define parameters and write a planning grant. Lopes and DiMichele contributed further insights on needs, resources, and technology background. Each had kept the Board's interests in mind at the meetings they attended. DiMichele pointed out that of those persons listed to aid further development, several were associated with commercial interests. Members questioned whether such a repository could be all things to all interests. To aid in its establishment, it was suggested that beginning with the HELIN repositories, and then extending to other RI repositories might be the most efficient route. It was decided that Stearn should draft a letter to HELIN Executive Director Robert Aspri to apprise him of the Board's wish to follow developments.

III Report on Protecting the Past-RI

– Theresa Woodmansee, Project Manager & Donna DiMichele

Woodmansee enumerated the workshops that would be held through December, including Disaster Response Planning & Preparation and Disaster Response & Triage of Wet Materials: Hands-on Practice, both in September, Insurance Primer for Libraries & Cultural Institutions in October, and A Disaster Plan Tabletop Exercise in December. The previously held “wet” workshops had been particularly appreciated by participants. The Tabletop workshop

enables participants to ‘exercise’ their dPlan on order to discover gaps or portions that need further work. They had received good feedback from previous participants, many of whom had found weaknesses in their dPlans.

IV Further discussion about recommendations to the Governor for Board vacancy

Candidates to put before the Governor for a Board vacancy were discussed. No further action was taken due to the lack of a quorum.

V Royal Charter 350th anniversary celebration and continuing events

Stearn gave a synopsis of the events that had taken place, on the new Charter Room Museum, and on the Spectacle of Toleration conference that will take place October 3-6. Organized by the Newport Historical Society with active involvement of other institutions, 40 scholarly papers will be presented by historians, legal scholars, journalists, and others concerning the role of religious tolerance, beginning with 17th Century England and through 20th Century Seattle. There will be two public keynote speeches, one to take place in Newport and the second in Providence. More information will be provided to members as it becomes available.

VI News and announcements

Franks informed members about the John E. Fogarty Foundation's centenary marking of their founder's birth. Congressman Fogarty was a principal founder of the public health system in the US. A website surrounding the centenary has been established. A traveling exhibit will be at Providence College in October, where his papers are deposited. Brown University will follow.

DiMichele reported that IMLS will conduct a second Heritage Health Index study in 2015, in 10 year follow-up to the previous survey. Heritage Preservation will also be involved. A joint IMLS & NEH press release was distributed.

Stearn remarked that the Redwood Library & Athenaeum had asked her to review a draft NHPRC grant application, which they had also sent to NHPRC for a pre-submission review. She had provided suggestions to the Redwood for strengthening the application. Stearn also reported on the substance of members' evaluations of the RI Historical Society's grant application and the summary she submitted to NHPRC.

VII Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved November 6, 2013