



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
September 8, 2021

Location:

R.I. Department of Business Regulation
560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, R.I.
DBR Board Room, First Floor

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Interim State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Morgan Grefe
Mr. Kevin Nelson, representing Meredith Brady, Associate Director, Division of
Statewide Planning
Mr. Warren Ducharme, representing James Cambio, State Building Code Commissioner
Ms. Kaity Ryan
Mr. Clark Schoettle
Ms. Ruth Taylor, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Tripp Evans
Mr. Paul Jordan, representing Terrence Gray, Acting Director, Rhode Island Department
of Environmental Management
Mr. Jesse Saglio, President, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
[Vacant]
[Vacant]
[Vacant]
[Vacant]

STAFF PRESENT

Donna Alqassar, Heritage Aide
Joanna Doherty, Principal Architectural Historian
Katherine Pomplun, Principal Grants Coordinator
Elizabeth Rochefort, Principal Architectural Historian

Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Coordinator

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 A.M., Ms. Taylor, Chair, presiding.

2. Roll call

Roll call appears on the agenda, but was not done due to the meeting being in-person. See the first page of the minutes for attendance.

3. For approval: Minutes of July 14, 2021 Commission meeting

On a motion by Dr. Grefe, seconded by Ms. Ryan, the commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021 Commission meeting with one wording change on page 5.

4. Interim Executive Director's Report

Jeffrey Emidy thanked Jim Cambio and Warren Ducharme for arranging the meeting location space.

Mr. Emidy reported that:

- a) On July 27, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the formal establishment of the boundaries of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. In Rhode Island, this includes the Old Slater Mill Historic Site, in Pawtucket, which the National Park Service (NPS) now owns, and a conservation and preservation easement from the state to NPS that includes part of the Blackstone Canal, Blackstone River Bikeway, and Kelley House, in Lincoln. The boundary establishment is very important as a crucial step in the long-term planning process for the Park.
- b) On July 29, the United States House of Representatives passed an appropriations package that included the Interior Appropriations Bill. This Bill includes the highest budget for the Historic Preservation Fund to date - \$155.8million. The Senate has not yet passed the bill and it is not expected that it will get to it before the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30.
- c) The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed the Senate on August 10. This is a \$1.2trillion bill. The bill includes a major increase in funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program, which provides grant funding for a number

of activities, including historic preservation. Like any good compromise, there is a downside: the bill seeks to speed federal project delivery by waving environmental review, which could impact historic resources.

- d) On August 18, President Biden nominated Charles Sams III to be the next director of the NPS. If confirmed by the Senate, he will be the first Native American to lead the agency and the first permanent director of the NPS since 2017. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland was the first Native American to hold a major post in the Biden Administration. The President seems to be sending a message at Interior with these two appointments.
- e) Closer to home, the Old State House exterior restoration project continues. The hardware for the new front doors is being installed today, which means, Mr. Emidy hopes, that those will be buttoned up, then painted and complete. There's a drainage issue on the south side of the building to be figured out, but then, he believes, only a few punch-list items remain. So again, cautiously and with awareness of having said this before, it seems like we're getting close.
- f) The State Planning Council has planned a slate of meetings at which Mr. Emidy will make presentations on the State Guide Plan element for historic preservation, which Paul Loether wrote. There is a meeting before the Council tomorrow at which they will hopefully vote to hold a public meeting. Then there is a technical review meeting Friday, and hopefully a public meeting on September 20th at 5:30 at the Department of Administration. After that, we will make any needed edits and changes resulting from public comments and then the Council will vote on whether to accept the element, and it will be done.

Ms. Taylor asked if there is anything controversial in the Guide Plan element. Kevin Nelson replied that there is not.

- g) Mr. Emidy received a letter from Secretary of State Gorbea's office appointing him to the RI250 Commission – that's the commission to recognize and celebrate the events around the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The executive director of the Commission is an automatic appointee. Sarah Zurier was involved early on in the effort to get this commission in place, so Mr. Emidy made sure that she will be welcomed at the meetings and she will serve as his delegate if he cannot make a meeting. He believes the first meeting of the Commission is being set up.
- h) Ms. Zurier started planning efforts for the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference 2022 early in the summer, then the COVID Delta variant and COVID, in general, started getting worse again. As a result of this, she and Mr. Emidy decided that planning an in-person conference for the spring of 2022 is not a good idea. There is a lot of planning that goes into an in-person conference, and to go

through all that work and expense, only to possibly have to cancel it again, like we did in 2020, just doesn't seem prudent. We are considering other options for 2022. Additionally, we are considering an idea to do an evaluation of our conference. Though we have not set down any of the details yet, this could be an in-depth look at what we do from the viewpoint of insiders and outsiders to determine what we should do in the future. It could also result in a manual or a guidance document for the conference.

Ms. Taylor stated that she was speaking to Wendy Nicholas recently and Ms. Nicholas mentioned that people really enjoy these conferences. Ms. Taylor stated that the evaluation seems like a great idea and that she would like to sit on the evaluation team. She stated that doing something to keep the momentum up is a good idea. Mr. Schoettle agreed. She stated that this is a public opportunity for the Commission staff.

Ms. Zurier stated that, if the commissioners have suggestions for format or other ideas, they are welcome now or later. Ms. Ryan asked if there is a theme for the 2022 conference. Ms. Zurier stated that there is not; the point we are at now is determining whether a theme will inform topics or topics will inform the theme. Dr. Grefe stated that there are a lot of landscape preservation projects going on right now and using that as a theme may be a way to get people out of an enclosed space and thinking about a different topic. Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday is being celebrated in 2022, as well. Ms. Zurier replied that the Historic American Landscape Survey landscape challenge last year was African-American landscapes. She will look into that.

5. For consideration: Easement review
John Brown House Great Lawn rehabilitation project
52 Power Street, Providence

Dr. Grefe, as executive director of the R.I. Historical Society (RIHS), recused herself prior to the start of the presentation. RIHS staff and project team members were in attendance to answer questions as needed.

Joanna Doherty made a presentation to the Commission regarding the John Brown House Great Lawn rehabilitation project. The RIHS is planning a landscape project at the John Brown House, intended to improve ADA access to the property and facilitate public programming while also reflecting and interpreting the site's landscape history. The RIHPHC holds an easement on the John Brown House, including the landscape, which requires the RIHS to seek approval for projects that involve physical changes to the property. In terms of the landscape, the easement states that there shall be "no significant alteration of the topography, and no removal or cutting down of specimen trees, except as may be required by good husbandry." The easement was signed in 2013 and has a term of

50 years. In March 2020, Ms. Doherty presented a landscape design concept for the John Brown House grounds, which the Commission approved. The RIHS has since revised its plans and is seeking final approval.

Ms. Doherty summarized historical information about the development of the property which she had presented in full at the March 2020 meeting. Of note in the consideration of this plan are that the northwest part of the site was formerly occupied by the Ives-Gammell House, which was built about 1840 and demolished about 1923. In 1904, soon after Marsden Perry had acquired the John Brown House, he engaged the Olmsted Brothers to produce a landscape design for his property. As Perry did not own the Ives-Gammell House property at the time, the Olmsted Brothers plan was limited to the southeast part of the current John Brown House property. The Olmsted Brothers plan called for a promenade encircling much of the yard, with open lawn in the center dotted by specimen trees. A fountain served as a focal point for this circular path; the RIHS does not have the fountain or know if it even survives. The plan had a terrace between the grounds and the house, with a marble balustrade and a pergola at its northern end, and a set of stairs connected the terrace with the circular path. There were heavy plantings along northern property line and a hedge inside the perimeter fence.

The property was sold to John Nicholas Brown in the 1930s and given to the RIHS in 1942. The circular path was removed at some point during this period, as were the fountain at the center of the path and most of the plantings. Notably, no physical evidence of the path is apparent today.

The RIHS plan for rehabilitating the Great Lawn is intended to coincide with the Society's 200th anniversary in 2022. They hope to put the project out to bid in the late fall or early winter for spring construction. Project goals include: improving ADA access within the grounds of the house and from the grounds to the house; improving the utility of the landscape for public programming and events; recreating the shaded grove that was historically on the site, but in a sustainable way; and expanding interpretation of the property to include the 19th-century landscape/site history.

RIHS is working with BETA Group to develop the landscape rehabilitation plan. In the north part of the property, the topography has a relatively gradual rise from Benefit Street toward the east. It is steeper along the eastern edge of the parking lot, and also steeper in the southern part of the property, where the house sits on an elevated terrace.

The plan will create pedestrian circulation paths within the lawn. The path in the southern part of the property evokes the Olmsted Brothers design, while the one in the northern part of the property is mostly outside of the bounds of the Olmsted design. It will create a path from a redesigned parking area to the pergola, at an ADA-accessible grade. Electrical conduit, lighting at the parking lot and along the paths, and security cameras at the parking lot will be installed to improve security as well as facilitate use of the grounds for programming. The plan will install some new vegetation, including several new trees

to replace the many elms that have been lost. The goal is to get away from a monoculture, to create a sustainable and low-maintenance landscape with multi-season interest. To that end, a range of trees are being considered, including maple, European beech, and red oak, among others. The plan will redesign the parking lot, almost entirely within the existing footprint, and will install interpretive signage to tell the story of the landscape and of Gilded Age Providence – an important period in Providence history that complements the 18th-century story told at the John Brown House.

Ms. Doherty stated that the plan has evolved somewhat from what was presented in March 2020. The most noticeable change involves the alignment of the paths, which has become less regular and more serpentine. This avoids impacting the roots of some large trees. Additionally, the RIHS is trying to minimize the amount of grading needed for the path. The new alignment provides space between the path and the trees to provide some room for minor grade adjustments. The alignment of the path in the southern section of the property, as shown on the March 2020 plan, came close to the Olmsted Brothers plan, but was not an exact re-creation – and, without the fountain as a focal point, the formality of a circular path makes less sense, from a design standpoint.

Looking at ADA access, currently, handicapped visitors must be dropped off in a fire lane at the east elevation of house. In the new scheme, an accessible path would lead from the parking lot to the pergola, then on to the main museum entry. While other paths would be constructed of dense-graded gravel - similar to stone dust - with steel edging, the path leading from the parking lot to the pergola would be exposed aggregate concrete, which is better for handicapped access. The two materials are meant to be visually compatible. This would involve slight re-grading along the retaining wall that delineates the property boundary, to create the necessary slope for ADA access. It would involve removing and resetting the existing brick walkway to make it accessible and re-setting the marble curb to make it flush with the driveway/fire lane.

The existing parking area would be re-designed to include two handicapped spots at the base of the ADA-accessible path. It would have spots for 21 cars, with room for overflow parking for events. The new parking lot is almost entirely within the existing parking lot footprint, and the landscape architect is recommending the entire parking lot surface be crushed stone.

RIHPHC staff archaeologists have reviewed the conceptual plans and do not believe that they pose any problems, and the staff recommends approval of the plan for the Great Lawn rehabilitation at the John Brown House.

Michael Abbott asked if the planned plantings are one-for-one replacements, or more, specifically regarding the three elms. Ms. Doherty stated that there are no plans to remove the three elms as part of this project. Randall Collins, of BETA Group, stated that an arborist will look at the elms and assess their life spans, then they will decide whether

to plant in proximity to them or wait until they die and replace them in the current locations. The trees seem sturdy and strong right now.

Kaity Ryan asked how much of the Olmsted plan was constructed. Ms. Doherty replied that she thinks it largely was.

A motion to approve the plan was made by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Ms. Ryan. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion, with Dr. Grefe recused.

6. For consideration: State Preservation Grant evaluation criteria and review panel members

The proposed criteria to be used to evaluate applications for State Preservation Grants (SPG) were distributed to commissioners for review prior to the meeting. Katherine Pomplun made a presentation, starting with an update on the 2021 SPG round.

Staff spent much of August working in tandem with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) to sync up our processes and prepare the SPG and State Cultural Facilities Grants (SCFG) applications. The applications were released to the public on Friday, August 27th. Thanks to our partnership with RISCA, this year's application is entirely online. RISCA held an information session on their SCFG program last Thursday, September 2, which Ms. Pomplun attended along with Sarah Zurier, and we were able to field some questions from the audience regarding the differences between SPG and SCFG. We will hold our own information session via Zoom tomorrow, September 9th, at 10:00 AM, at which RISCA will also be in attendance to field questions that may come up.

At our last Commission meeting, in July, when the application was still in development, Ms. Pomplun indicated that we were trying to come up with a "one application" solution, in which branching questions on the application form would direct an organization to either RIHPHC or RISCA. This proved to be too difficult to achieve in the end, so we do have two separate applications; however, both are somewhat pre-loaded with eligibility questions that we hope will help ensure that applicants find themselves in the right place.

Applications are due on October 1st and the Commission will make final award decisions in December. The SPG program regulations require the Commission to do two things at this point – approve the evaluation criteria that the review panel will use to score the applications, and appoint a panel of experts to that review panel.

Beginning with the evaluation criteria: they include five scoring categories amounting to a total 50 point rubric. We have eliminated one category from the 2015-2017 grant

rounds, the “Planning” category, which awarded points based on a project’s compatibility with a city or town’s local comprehensive plan. In practice, this felt like an arbitrary way to award points, and it did not seem to add value to the reviewers’ discussions of a proposed project. We also added two new categories, “Distribution” and “Capacity to Succeed.” “Distribution” is somewhat a modification; we had previously set aside five points in the rubric for geographic diversity among the projects, so that a project from a city or town that we don’t fund a lot of projects in would sometimes get a boost. We’ve enlarged this to a 10 point category that considers both geographic distribution of projects and the ability of the project “to address the needs of underserved populations and/or engage with underserved communities.” “Capacity to Succeed” will measure the applicant organization’s financial and administrative strength and will somewhat formalize in the rubric the anticipated likelihood that the applicant has the capacity to complete a successful project. Again, this is something that reviewers were always asked to consider, but now we want them to assign one to 10 points in this category as well. The remaining three categories of Historical/Architectural Significance, Project Need, and Project Impact are unchanged from 2015-2017 and they are worth a maximum of 10 points each. Historical/Architectural Significance is self-explanatory. Project Need rates the project’s physical preservation needs. Project Impact recognizes public use of the building, community support, and the ability of the project to improve the building’s function as a public place.

Ms. Taylor noted that a “capacity to succeed” evaluation, which is important, may have a tendency to bias toward those whom we have already supported. Ms. Pomplun made a note of this for consideration during the evaluation process. Ms. Taylor stated that she hopes not scoring at the top of a particular category does not eliminate a proposal. Ms. Pomplun stated that the ranking by rubric isn’t the automatic result; it facilitates discussion of all of the applications.

Ms. Ryan asked what is asked for of applicants. Ms. Pomplun replied that they are asked to supply a 990 form, certification of 501(c)(3) status, examples of past grant management and capital project experience, and whether or not match is in-hand.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to approve the State Preservation Grant evaluation criteria as received and presented. Dr. Grefe seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Pomplun presented information about the Review Panel. Per the SPG regulations, the Review Panel must be appointed by the Commission, and should include, at a minimum, “a historian, an architect, and a representative from RISCA.” The regulations also specify that the RIHPHC executive director shall be a voting member of the panel. Following those guidelines, we have attempted to assemble a diverse panel that is highly qualified, representative of different preservation professions, and made up of people from different

areas of the state. We landed on a seven-person panel made up of four women and three men. These are:

- Ron Onorato from Newport, architectural historian, professor emeritus of Art History at URI, and former RIHPHC commissioner
- Pierson Booher from Warwick, architect and principal at DBVW Architects
- Grace Gielink from Providence, program and property coordinator at Preserve Rhode Island
- Simidele Mabray from Providence, project manager at the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
- Shantia Anderheggen from South Kingstown, historic preservation consultant.

In the two predetermined slots we have Jeff Emidy of Woonsocket, interim executive director representing the RIHPHC staff, and Molly Dickinson of Middletown, program coordinator for RISCA's State Cultural Facilities Grant program.

Mr. Abbott asked what happens if someone on the panel has a conflict of interest. Ms. Pomplun replied that there is a recusal process and they do not read that grant. However, we've tried to find panel members who won't have an application before us. Mr. Abbott asked if approval is by simple majority and Ms. Pomplun replied that it is – four members.

Mr. Schoettle made a motion to approve the panel as presented. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Emidy reported to the Commission that he has been informed that someone has called the office during the meeting to complain that they cannot get into the meeting by telephone. Ms. Taylor stated that, according to her conversation with the Secretary of State's office staff, we are to hold our meetings in person and there is no mandate for a telephone option.

7. For information: American Rescue Plan Act program proposal

Ms. Pomplun presented information about the RIHPHC's application for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. In June, Paul Loether informed the Commission that the State's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had announced its intention earlier in the spring to competitively distribute surplus American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to state agencies. Agencies were requested to submit proposals for projects that would be responsive to conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic and to guiding principles established by OMB. These included an emphasis on infrastructure, streamlining agency operations, enhancing educational opportunities, etc. We were late in finding out about this opportunity, but as luck would have it, OMB did accept proposals through the end of

July, and we were able to submit one.

We have requested \$3 million in ARPA funding to implement a program called “Capital Improvement Grants for History and Heritage Organizations.” This would be a competitive, pass-through grants program for capital projects at eligible non-profit history and heritage organizations, modeled very closely off of State Preservation Grants. The definition of an eligible site for these grants, however, would be much broader. These grants would not require match, and preference will be given to projects that respond directly to constraints resulting from COVID response or that address a health/safety need, such as ADA needs accentuated by COVID, HVAC improvements, or redesigns of interior spaces. Capital improvements or maintenance deferred because of income loss or other pandemic-related priority shifts will also be considered.

Lastly, we envision that SPG recipients could apply for this funding to use as match for their SPG grants. We anticipate that this large of a program might require us to staff up somewhat, so although the proposal budget is nearly entirely for grants, we did budget about \$250,000 for personnel and administrative costs as well.

All that said, we’ve heard nothing on the proposal. What Ms. Pomplun has heard more or less through the grapevine is that the General Assembly had decided they want to play a role in deciding where this money would go, meaning we wouldn’t know anything until the fall, at the earliest. So, we have no details on the timing of this, nor are we even sure if OMB plans to advance our request to the legislature – but we wanted to let the Commission know that we did submit a proposal, which we think was the right thing to do given the unprecedented nature of this opportunity, and we will keep the Commission informed.

8. For information: Heritage Month Virtual Celebration update

Mr. Emidy stated that he watched the first broadcast on Sunday and is really impressed with the quality and diversity of the entire production. Heritage sometimes gets short shrift in our office, with its single staff person and undersized budget, but Donna Alqassar does great work and, if the first episode is consistent with the others, this is going to be a fabulous reflection on the heritage of our state. He thanked Ms. Alqassar and the other staff and organizations that have contributed their time and talent.

Ms. Alqassar provided an update on the Heritage Month Virtual Celebration, reporting that, due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to keep the festival virtual again this year so that our audience would still have the opportunity to learn about the diverse heritage groups in Rhode Island and experience various cultural art forms that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Every Saturday this month at 7 p.m. on our YouTube channel, we will host a 60-minute virtual celebration, which will feature "Heritage Highlights" from different cultural performance groups and heritage organizations, as well as hands-on activities like cooking and dance demonstrations. In all, there are 43 video segments from more than 25 cultures, and we added 20 newcomers to our program this year. We are very pleased that this year's program includes a welcome message from Governor Dan McKee and a special presentation from Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea.

Last week, we premiered the first week of our month-long program, which has already received over 100 views. It featured exceptional performances by Rhode Island artists, including the talented tap dancer Orlando Hernández from RI Latino Arts, the renowned Eastern Medicine Singers, and the captivating Rhode Island Black Storytellers. We also learned about the Rhode Island Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day and how to make Chicken Madeira from R.I. Day of Portugal's Pri Pri Kitchen.

Our main goal in creating heritage events like this one is to make them as diverse and inclusive as possible. In this week's presentation, we have a moving acapella performance of the National Anthem in Spanish created by RI Latino Arts. Additionally, we will share a beautifully illustrated story created by Silvermoon Mars LaRose, teach you how to make plantain tostanos, and get you out of your seat to learn a Bollywood dance routine. In the following week, we have the privilege of having two students from the Rhode Island School for the Deaf perform our National Anthem in American Sign Language.

Each week during R.I. Heritage Month, you can hear the sounds and feel the rhythms from different cultures by viewing exceptional performances by many gifted artists and heritage organizations. Ms. Alqassar stated that she looks forward to the commissioners supporting and attending this year's event as we celebrate our state's rich cultural diversity, and that, in a future meeting, she will provide a final report that will include details about the event's promotion, viewership, and fiscal support.

Dr. Grefe stated that we should reconsider rebroadcasting the program during the winter. Ms. Alqassar stated that we did that last year when we debuted the YouTube channel and we will consider doing that again this year.

9. For information: 2021 Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation

Sarah Zurier provided an update on the 2021 Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation. At our last meeting, we provided the Commission with a list of candidates that were in consideration and you authorized the staff, in cooperation with Preserve Rhode Island, to make the final selections. The awardees will be:

- Homeowner Award to Erin and Jonathan Chapman of Glen Farm Mill House, in Portsmouth

- Community Award to Providence Community Library, in Providence
- Project Awards for Prospect Heights Housing, in Pawtucket
- Providence Performing Arts Center, in Providence
- Wedding Cake House, in Providence
- Samuel Clarke Farm, in Richmond
- Pontiac Mills, in Warwick
- Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award to Friends of Hearthside
- Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award to Ken Woodcock
- Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award to Ned Connors
- Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award to Rich Youngken

The Rhody Awards will be celebrated this year with two events. On Saturday, October 16th, 12 award-winning sites, including two from 2020, will be open for ticket buyers to tour. On Sunday, October 17th, a reception will be held at Linden Place, in Bristol. Tickets for both events are available from Preserve Rhode Island via their website.

Mr. Emidy reminded the commissioners that he had earlier sent out a request for who would like tickets, as the cost would be covered by the Commission. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Schoettle stated that they would like tickets to both events and Ms. Ryan to the reception.

10. For information: State Preservation Plan update

Elizabeth Rochefort reported that the National Park Service has approved our statewide historic preservation plan, which runs from 2021 to 2027. The plan is now live on our website. Our next steps will be an implementation plan and our annual plan, which we submit to the NPS. We have to tie the two documents together. The preparation of this plan started too close to the due date, so Ms. Rochefort is thinking that we should start thinking about the next plan five years out from its due date, to allow for consideration of many elements in greater detail. Ms. Taylor agrees that there is an institutional benefit from having a rolling view of planning.

11. For information: Update on RIHPHC Executive Director hiring process

Ms. Taylor reported that she is waiting to hear from the state Department of Human Resources that we have permission to hire. She is pulling together a search committee. It will include a representative from state HR, two commissioners, and two or so people from the preservation community. She has not asked anyone yet because she does not know that we have permission to proceed.

Ms. Ryan stated that, when the search committee meets, she would be happy to serve.

Mr. Abbott asked how other positions within the office get filled. Mr. Emidy replied that they go through the same administrative process; we get permission to hire then post the position online. In staff cases, the executive director makes the selection, while the Commission is responsible for selecting the executive director. All hires have to be approved by the state Department of Human Resources.

12. Announcements

The next Commission meeting will be held October 13, 2021. Unless something changes, the meeting will be in person. Mr. Emidy stated that he would try to secure a location in Providence.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

Minutes recorded by,



Jeffrey D. Emidy
Interim Executive Director
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer