## HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 10, 2011

The Board convened at 9:07 a.m. in the old conference room of the Archives building. In attendance were members Richard E. Winslow, III, Anne T. Packard, Paul Bergeron, Marcia Schmidt Blaine, Sally Fellows and Brian Nelson Burford.

Introductions were made. State archivist Burford passed out the minutes of the May 27, 2010 meeting. Marcia Schmidt Blaine called for acceptance of the minutes and the motion was seconded by Anne Packard. There was a unanimous vote to accept the minutes.

The first item of business was the sunset legislation proposed in 2009 in which all non-regulatory boards, commissions, councils, advisory committees and task forces in state government created by statute or administrative rule will expire on June 30, 2011, unless reinstated by the general court. SHRAB is set to expire on June 30, 2011, and the question posed by Burford was should the board accept the demise of SHRAB or mount a defense to re-establish the Board by amending an existing statute.

The deadline for new legislature for 2011 has passed, though Bergeron stated that there may be a way to submit new legislature through the State Senate. Bergeron also suggested that SHRAB's responsibilities could be given to the Municipal Records Board which was reinstated.

Burford will ask the Secretary of State's office to intervene on behalf of SHRAB, and Bergeron will also do this as well. Bergeron will also contact the Lucy Barber of NHPRC to find out what would happen to New Hampshire's ability to apply for funding if there is no SHRAB in place. There is a possibility that no organization in the State of New Hampshire would be allowed to receive an NHPRC grant without a Historical Records Advisory Board.

Once Bergeron has spoken with the Deputy Director of NHPRC, Burford will contact the Executive Director of NHPRC, Kathleen Williams. In conclusion, Bergeron made the motion that SHRAB be allowed to continue its responsibility to preserve and protect the historical records of the State of New Hampshire. Blaine seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote in favor of this action.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

There is one vacancy on the Board and two individuals' terms have timed out – Paul Bergeron and Ed Desrochers. Bergeron agreed to stay on for one more term. Burford will contact Desrochers about his future involvement with the Board.

Suggestions were made about what type of individual should be nominated for the vacancy. Bergeron felt that if Desrochers should decline a further term, choosing an individual from another secondary school would be important to the balance of the board. Geographical considerations were discussed and individuals from Keene State College, Rivier College and Dartmouth College were proposed. A historian from Coos County was suggested as was a representative from Franklin Pierce Law School. Burford will give some thought about who should be nominated and he will then contact the Governor's office.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Fellows suggested a possible NHPRC grant application to digitize records around the state. Burford will contact the Maine State Archives (who received a grant to digitize Civil War records) to determine the scope and complexity of the grant.

The next item of business was the Strategic Plan of 1994. Burford asked if the Plan should be updated. Bergeron stated that Massachusetts has a Strategic Plan in the works and that their plan may be a model for New Hampshire to use. Winslow stated that the Strategic Plan is 17 years old but perhaps the Board could make a few new amendments to update it.

The question of digitization arose during this discussion. Administrative Services offers a service to digitize existing microfilm or digitize first and then create microfilm. This information could be included in the Plan. Bergeron suggested that the Objective and Goals could be updated. Burford will re-read the Plan to see if it can be updated and republished.

Fellows mentioned the upcoming NHPRC conference calls to answer questions about digitizing historical records grants. She will sign up for one of the sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am. The next meeting will be on March 29, 2010 at 9 am.

Respectfully submitted, Sally Fellows