

HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2011

The Board convened at 9:06 a.m. in the old conference room of the Archives building. In attendance were members Richard E. Winslow, III, Paul Bergeron, Anne T. Packard, Brian Nelson Burford and Sally Fellows. Rodney Obien and Marcia Schmidt Blaine were unable to attend.

State Archivist Burford passed out the minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting. Bergeron called for acceptance of the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Packard. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

The first item of business was the future of the SHRAB. Burford advised that the House approved the continuation of the State Historical Records Advisory Board on March 15, 2011. An amendment was attached but it has no relevance to the SHRAB or its mission. It is Burford's opinion that the Advisory Board is on track to continue.

The next topic of discussion was the continuation of terms for some members and the introduction of a new member. Burford reported that Edouard Desrochers, who has served for many years, now wishes to resign from the Board. Burford mentioned Rodney Obien as a possible successor. Mr. Obien is the Archivist for Keene State University and is on the Board of Directors of the New England Archivists. Burford felt Obien would be an excellent member and proposed to put his name forward to the Governing Council.

Bergeron and Packard have agreed to continue their association so Burford will be advising the Governing Council of their interest as well. The Board is still has one vacancy and would like to have someone from the North Country so that the Board reflects all areas of the State of New Hampshire. Winslow suggested that Joseph Montebello of Dartmouth be contacted. He also suggested contacting Bill Ross of the University of New Hampshire, Durham who may be able to recommend someone for the Board.

Burford then introduced the topic of the 1994 Strategic Plan. Due to his busy schedule as Archivist and Records Manager for the State, he has been unable to work on updating the Plan. Bergeron suggested that each member be assigned a section of the Strategic Plan so that the burden would not be solely Burford's. Burford agreed to email sections of the Plan to each member for their review.

The last item of Old Business was a report by Bergeron on the implications of not having a SHRAB in New Hampshire and then trying to apply for an NHPRC grant. The State Archives and State Library would not be able to apply for NHPRC funding if there was

no SHRAB in place. Burford will notify NHPRC of the Board's status once it has been resolved.

One of the items of new business consisted of a report by Fellows on the possibility applying for an NHPRC grant by the Board. The grant in question was "Digitizing Historical Records". The SHRAB is not eligible to apply for this grant but individual repositories in the State of New Hampshire can. The grant includes the cost of purchasing equipment and the salary of the individual doing the scanning. Bergeron mentioned Archives.org as a way digital collections of small repositories can be hosted for free.

Another item of new business was Bergeron's involvement on the Library of Congress' steering committee for DEPOT (Digital Education, Preservation and Outreach Team). The Library of Congress wishes to create a group of individuals who will go out into communities around the United States to digitize records. Bergeron feels that the initiative is being driven by universities who have strong School of Information Systems programs. Library of Congress has yet to devote any funding to this program, and Bergeron felt that the Board should monitor the program's progress.

The next item business was Burford's discussion of the New Hampshire Connecting to Collections Project which is funded by an IMLS grant and administered by Janet Ecklund of the State Library. The goal of the grant is to contact historical societies to determine what collections they have and then to put this information on a website which would be searchable. The project is now being re-engineered so the end result may change.

Burford mentioned the next meeting of the New Hampshire Archives Group will be May 18th and details of the program can be found at www.nharchivesgroup.org.

It was determined that the time for the next meeting will not be set. Burford will inform the membership by email of issues that require their attention.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Fellows