

Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board
Bi-Monthly Meeting
May 11, 2016
Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Attendance:

Pleun Bouricius, Penni Martorell, Veronica Martzahl (Deputy Coordinator and Secretary), Cliff McCarthy, Dan McCormack, Rachel Onuf, Kaari Mai Tari, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Anthony Vaver, Jack Warner (Coordinator),

Absent:

Gloria Greis

Roving Archivist updates

Please see Appendix A for Rachel Onuf's full report.

Discussion regarding report:

- Jack Warner will be talking to Tanya Marshall during the week of May 16th regarding the Massachusetts Roving Archivists program.
- Dan McCormack suggested proposing a SHRAB summit at the next New England Archivists conference next spring (2017) to the NEA Membership Committee. The Board approved the suggestion.
- The Board also discussed a posting on the SAA Local History listserv by the Northeast Document Conservation Center about the Town of Lincoln's joint project between Clerk's Office and Public Library
- The Town Clerks' conference is scheduled for June 16, 2016 in Plymouth

Review of Applications

The group reviewed the following applications for Roving Archivist services:

New Marlborough Historical Society – Level 1 – Approved by unanimous consent

Lancaster Historical Commission – Level 2 – Approved by unanimous consent

The group reviewed the following applications for regrant funding:

Hatfield Historical Society - \$1,000 to rehouse papers from the Porter-McLeod Machine Shop

Annisquam Historical Society – Rachel will work with them on a resubmission

NHPRC draft grant review

The group reviewed a draft NHPRC application from the University of Massachusetts Lowell Libraries and Center for Asian American Studies. Comments will be compiled and given to the applicant within the next week.

Mass History Conference

Preparations continue on-pace for the Mass History Conference on June 13, 2016. The theme is *Putting History on the Map Together: In Town, County and Across the Commonwealth*. A SHRAB track has been established for the afternoon with walk-in registration for one session and the Commons. The SHRAB will have a table in the Commons and Board members will be needed to staff the table.

Commonwealth Historical Collaborative Directory

Rob Cox provided the group an update on the state of the Commonwealth Historical Collaborative Directory (<http://chc.library.umass.edu/>). Rob requested that Board members that are willing to input data for their respective institutions should email him and request an account to get started. Additionally, the text of common pages needs to be reviewed and vetted. The group also started a discussion of sustainability of the site over time.

Features:

- Registry connecting to child blogs
- People can get access to their directory page and child
- Image upload
- Design work to integrate sponsorship
- About page
- Map of each repository – clusters that you can zone into
- Calendar with google calendar
- Events and opportunities page
- Responsive design for mobile
- Dashwood Historical Society – child site template

Next SHRAB grant to NHPRC

The next NHPRC grant is due June 15, 2016. Veronica Martzahl will send out a draft for comment by the group.

Next Meeting

July 13, 2016
10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Possible location: Westborough Public Library

Appendix A

Dear SHRABites,

Since the March SHRAB meeting I have been to the following category three recipients:

- Association for Gravestone Studies
- Halifax Historical Society (2 days)
- Swift River Valley Historical Society
- Heath Historical Society

And by the time you read this

- Chelmsford Telemedia

I also roved to the Westborough Public Library for a category two site visit.

I have six visits currently scheduled for May-July.

Increasingly, I am assisting institutions with grant proposals, which is a terrific development. These include regrant applications for Rivers, the town of Orange, and the Noble and Cooley Center for Historic Preservation. I read drafts of the Pioneer Valley History Network (PVHN) proposal to Mass Humanities. I also helped the good people of Longmeadow articulate a defense of the proposal they had submitted when the CPC told them inventory work does not count as preservation.

I talked to Eva Grizzard, who is doing some of the assessments for the MBLC's "Town-Wide Preservation Assessment and Collection Identification Program," trying to figure out how that grant fits with the services provided by the RA.

I attended the Digital Commonwealth conference and presented information about both SHRAB programs to an audience of about 15.

I did a little bit of catablog data entry and will do more to help Rob get it ready for its official debut.

Other relevant-but-not-on-the-SHRAB-clock work:

I met with the Vermont SHRAB (VHRAB) on April 8th and told the Board about the RA program. Tayna Marshall, the State Archivist, is interested in having the VHRAB apply to the NHPRC to fund a full-time roving archivist position. She may be in touch with Jack and Veronica as the deadline nears. I broached the idea of getting the New England SHRABs together. Unfortunately I was not able to attend NEA; that would be a natural venue for at least an informal gathering of Board members. I also discussed the MBLC's grant program and the catablog.

I did two more "Managing Local History Collections in Public Libraries" workshops for the Mass Library System (MLS), one in Newburyport (13 attendees) and one in Lee (11 attendees). I handed out RA and regrant literature to each group. Afterward I asked Anna Popp if MLS might be interested in helping to coordinate catablog training and she said YES. Just a thought.

In an effort to connect more with Museum People, I will be presenting a workshop to New England Museum Association (NEMA) library and archives folks in June. They wanted to hear about appraisal so that's what I'm doing. I will take the opportunity to tell my captive audience about the SHRAB programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel