

Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board

March 9, 2016

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Massachusetts Archives

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, MA 02155

Attendance: Pleun Bouricius; Gloria Greis; Penni Martorell; Veronica Martzahl (Deputy Coordinator and Secretary); Cliff McCarthy; Dan McCormack; Gregor Trinkaus-Randall; Anthony Vaver; Jack Warner (Coordinator)

Guest: Michael Comeau; Carolyn Goldstein; George Michael

Absent: Rob Cox, Kaari Mai Tari

Oath of Office

Commissioners to Qualify Michael Comeau and George Michael witnessed the oath from renewing members to the Archives Advisory Commission and the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board

- Cliff McCarthy – 1 year member
- Pleun Bouricius – 3 year alternate member

Roving Archivist Report

Rachel Onuf reviewed her report from March 7, 2016 (Appendix A). In addition, she highlighted a workshop she gave to public librarians about managing local history collections through the Massachusetts Library System. This is the first of a four-part series.

Update of MBLC Activities

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall shared with the group regarding the status of programming at MBLC on parallel track of preservation assessments at the community level. The MBLC is working with Beverly, Sandwich, Westborough, and South Hadley.

MA History Conference Update

Pleun Bouricius updated the group on the status of programming and planning for the upcoming MA History Conference in June. The group looked over the an overview document and an outline of sessions.

Carolyn Goldstein also joined the group and presented information about the Mass Memories Roadshow program and engaged in a conversation about the catablog as a possible topic of one of the sessions.

Action Item: Veronica Martzahl will send out draft document of sessions to the group.

Review of Applications

The group reviewed the following applications for Roving Archivist services.

- Westborough Public Library – Level 2 – Approved by unanimous support
Anthony Vaver recused himself from discussion.
- Halifax Historical Society – Level 3 – Approved by unanimous support
- Heath Historical Society – Level 3 – Approved following the meeting via email by unanimous support

The group also discussed an upcoming New Marlborough application that is being worked on.

Review of Regrant Applications

The group had a discussion of what funds are currently remaining in the grant that need to be expended by the end of March, 2016.

The group reviewed the following applications for Regrants

- Town of Burlington – \$988.45 - Approved by unanimous consent
Dan McCormack recused himself from discussion.
- Noble and Cooley Center for Historical Preservation - \$1,000.00 – Approved

The group also reviewed a regrant application from the Massachusetts Archives. Since Veronica Martzahl and Jack Warner recused themselves from the discussion, notes of that discussion were compiled by Pleun Bouricius and are presented below:

The committee will be receiving a regrant application from Mass Archives. The group discussed whether funding Mass Archives presented a conflict of interest for the SHRAB committee. The committee consulted Dan Stokes from NHPRC and he said he did not see any problems with it, since the SHRAB is separate from the Archives. The members then discussed whether there was an appearance of conflict of interest and concluded that since the members worked in good faith to spend all the funds on other organizations and their needs, funding a Mass archives grant application would not appear to be a conflict of interest if the committee put a contingency on approval of any Mass Archives grant applications.

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall moved full funding and the committee voted unanimously to fund a Mass Archives regrant for up to \$1,000 provided that the funds have not been designated to be spent on other approved regrant applicants by the spending deadline.

Discussion with Dan Stokes

The group had a conference call with Dan Stokes, Director for State Programs at the NHPRC. Dan confirmed that the MA Archives would be eligible for regrant funds as long as representatives of the Archives recused themselves from discussion.

The group discussed revisions to the objectives for the current grant as well as potential revisions to the next grant. The group also discussed the focus of the next grant application. Asked about regrant application from MA Archives

Brochure Revisions

The group passed in comments on the brochure which Veronica will compile and send back out to the group for further comment.

Next Meeting

May 11, 2016
Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Appendix A

Rachel Onuf's March Roving Archivist report

Since the January SHRAB meeting I have returned to several places to help them stay – or get! – on track:

- Town of Leverett
- Hamilton Historical Society
- City of Holyoke
- Swift River Valley Historical Society
- Association for Gravestone Studies

I also roved to Hardwick for a category one site visit. There I met with folks from the historical society and the old stone church.

I have spent some time working on promotion:

- With help from Veronica, wrote a blurb about the SHRAB programs for the newsletter of the New England Archivists.
- Was present at the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association meeting on February 4th, where I spoke at length to six clerks. I will follow up with them if they do not submit an application for the roving archivist in the next month or so.
- Thanks to Gregor's intervention, I was invited to speak about the SHRAB programs at the Digital Commonwealth conference on April 5th.
- Contacted the New England Museum Association and asked for their help promoting the SHRAB programs to their membership. The Library and Archives Professional Affinity Group is going to give me contact information for their members so I can write to them directly. We are also discussing me doing some sort of "Archives 101" workshop for the group, which would give me a chance to talk about the SHRAB programs.

- Followed up with 18 rovees, asking for updates and encouraging them to reapply to the SHRAB if they need my help with anything or could use regrant funds. I have heard back from 7 to date.