



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have said to myself that I'm going to shorten my message and avoid my mini-series approach to the President's Letters. Here goes.

Old Item: the final review schedule for the Comprehensive Plan before going to the state for review on December 23 is as follows:

Planning Board, Public Meeting
& Approval: Nov. 12
City Council Hearing: Dec. 2
City Council Action & Approval:
Dec. 16

The Plan, if adopted as written, is good, consistent and equitable for everyone in the City of East Providence. It will improve the

SPECIAL MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held November 25,
1991
7:30 pm
at Weaver Public Library, 41
Grove Street.
Speaker will be Bill Ewen on
"The *Nobska* - Last New
England Steamboat"

PRESIDENTS LETTER

quality of life for people in the City, encourage economic development and preserve natural historic and cultural resources.

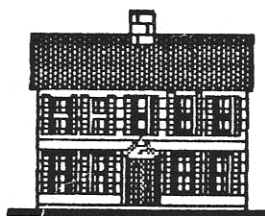
More specifically, if the implementation recommendations are adopted as written, it will protect the existing character of our City, its structures and provide guidance for future public and private projects.

The operative phrase is "if accepted as written." As long as special interest groups don't try to gut the Plan or tinker with it, we'll all be better off.

It's not over. We are in the fourth quarter, or more appropriately, it's the bottom of the ninth and the score is still 0-0; we need to stay on top of the situation.

All the City wide organizations (including the Historical Society) have had a say in writing the Plan and have done a good job. But the ones responsible for analyzing, compiling and directing the final product are the Planning Department, headed by Jeanne Boyle. And while I

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OLDE NEWS

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Providence Historical Society

Editor George Field, IV

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, Rhode Island 02916
438-1750

OFFICERS

President	Scott Booth
First Vice-President	Nancy Moore
Second Vice-President	Patricia Millette
Secretary	Kris Rose
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellew
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski
Board Members-at-Large	Virginia Berwick Virginia Solitto Nancy Stevens

*The
East Providence
Historical Society meets every
month on the fourth Monday
except for holidays and the
months of July and August.*

*Meetings are free to all and
all are welcome.*

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Some former members of the Museum Committee have consented to continue again this year. Anyone else interested in being on the committee, should call me at 434-3347. It is an interesting volunteer opportunity.

The Open House and Christmas sale on Dec. 1 will feature our newly restored parlor. We believe that the Hunt House was built sometime between 1780-1790 during a time which became known as the Federal Period in house and furniture design. These were the years during which our country was becoming a Federal Republic, hence the name.

The woodwork in the room, particularly the chair rails and the mantel, are important examples of Adams design in Federal interior architecture. The parlor walls will be white, the woodwork around windows and doors a pale green and the chair rails will be stained walnut to match the treads and handrail in the front hall stairway. The hall

woodwork will be green- a color much favored by wealthy homeowners of the period. The furniture would have been Chipendale, Hepplewhite, Sheraton or Empire as the Federal Period extended from 1780-1830. If anyone has a chair or table from those periods which they can loan us for the Open House it would be greatly appreciated. We do not need many pieces as parlors were sparsely furnished at that time. The greens in the parlor will be for sale, incidently. Please come to see the marvelous restoration which Walter and his restorers have achieved. It is very beautiful. There will also be a display in the upstairs Museum Room. Can anyone donate a 6' x 9' rug or remnant to put on the floor of the Museum Room?

Over the summer months the following donors have made gifts to the Museum:

Lowell and Edna Anness -
Luther Dairy milk bottle, Vinnitti Bros. Hardware store wall thermometer, a Barbara's candy box and 1839 "Annual

MEMBERSHIP

A membership drive is forthcoming not only to entice new members, but also to inform our members of the plan to combine committees and involve more people, therefore creating more interest and attendance.

We're hopeful that everyone will participate and bring a little fun into our meetings.

The pink slip which has been inserted into some of your newsletters is a last reminder of dues not paid, and I do hope to hear from each of you. Please contact me:

Madeline Vincent
45 Priscilla Ave.
Rumford RI 02916.

In April of this year at a state wide preservation conference, David King, the Executive Director of the Champlin Foundations cited the East Providence Historical Society as an organization that Champlin would continue to support because of its member's dedication and caliber of work. This volunteer work; from fund raising, to crafting and carpentry,

from research to cataloging, to telephoning, from baking to painting to computing has all been done by our members. Although our members are busy with their own lives and families and jobs they always seem to find the time to come forward and help. This year we would like to establish a resource bank to list the things our volunteers most enjoy doing and the hours they are best able to help. Enclosed with this month's newsletter is a survey which briefly explains the committee work, lists the types of skills always needed and a time preference that best suits your busy life. This is not a contract nor is it our intent to fill up your life with volunteer work, but when volunteer time is needed, we'll have a record of the tasks you enjoy doing and we'll be able to call on you at a convenient time.

Perhaps you can only drive fellow members to meetings. Perhaps you can only make cookies for a dinner- or perhaps you could clip articles for us at your own home. Whatever time you can spare is all we ask.

Please take the time to fill in this survey and send it to our P.O. Box. If in six weeks your schedule changes and you can't help out, we'll understand, but we need to know your pleasures!

Let's make this year our best year ever- the volunteer commitment from each of us is why our Society is great!

Pat Millette

MUSEUM COMMITTEE cont.

Report of the Mass. Anti-Slavery Society."

V. Buskey - Three Rumford Baking Co. cookbooks.

Burton and Doris Chace- Five school pins (1896-1905) including a gold E.P. High School pin for 1901.

Anna del Pozzo- two iron flatirons

Paula Braman Duarte - 1957 Crimson and Rhode History volumes and 10 Rumford Chemical Company lab books.

Charles Gross - Josiah Hunt's funeral notice and related news articles. Josiah was Allin Hunt's son.

Isabel Izzo and Marjorie

Join the Historical Society today! Send this coupon (with money) to
E.P.H.S.
P.O.Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Single (\$10) Family (\$15)

Angell- Picture of Grove Ave, School and one of a Broadway Diary wagon with their father, Raymond Angell, holding the horses, plus news clippings.

Rhonda Marzetta- several Victorian era pictures.

Anne Reynolds - history of Grand Order Fraternity and two Masonic emblems.

Lura Sellev - Washington Bridge dedication program from 1930, Alice Waddington's scrapbook and news clippings.

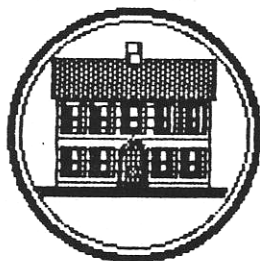
Nancy Stevens - New library dedication program.

Madeline Vincent - Hoyt

cont. on pg 8

HUNT HOUSE UPDATE

Some brief notes on the Building Committee's doings:



Rotary Club and that these donations be acknowledged with small engraved brass markers on the sashes.

Champlin Grant, 1991

The Committee reaffirmed its decision to apply for the repairs and improvements which were part of the \$44,000 state grant which has disappeared because of faulty legislation.

The following items were considered in the new grant proposal:

Windows Sashes- Walter measured an original window opening and it was determined that a 12 over 12 light sash would fit the opening almost perfectly. The extreme thinness of the original windows (3/4") will necessitate having custom sash work fabricated. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board that the Society spend the money donated for windows by the Rumford Junior Women's Club and the

Outside Painting and Wood Repair- The Committee used the \$15,000. figure which appeared in the state grant for outside painting and wood repair.

Electricity- The Committee decided not to add the cost of repairs to the 1991 Champlin grant. Funds should come out of Society fund raisers or any savings in other restoration work. (see Heating System below). Alarm system improvements will be added to the cost of the electrical system.

Living Room Mantle - Edna called SPINEA and a private restoration expert recommended by Sturbridge Village for estimates. In addition one of the masons who bid on the restoration has the

expertise to restore the mantle in situ. A separate amount for this project was not included in the Champlin grant application.

Masonry Claudette Field, Building Committee Chair located a mason, Frank Genello, through Mark Zelonis of Heritage Trust of RI. Unfortunately Mr. Genello was not able to give the group an estimate before the grant application must be submitted. Meanwhile Scott Booth and Claudette met with a mason, Vic Spirito, from Landmark Restorations in Lexington. The work has been divided into three phases ranging from Phase I which comprises major structural work, such as stabilizing the cracks in the chimney, to Phase III which deals primarily with cosmetic repairs. The total Champlin grant application for windows, painting and masonry repairs totals approximately \$64,000.

Heating System

Plans of the system which have been modified by George Field

and reviewed by Paul Millette to include recommendations by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission were re-submitted to the low bidders.

Claudette has also talked to the RIHPC outlining the modifications which will reduce ductwork and the number of outlets, relocate the attic furnace, and in general minimize the system's effect on the house. The low bidders stated that the modifications would not change the cost of installing the system.

In addition, the Committee is studying an alternative system using smaller, flexible ductwork and high velocity air delivery. The bid on this system is substantially lower than the rigid duct system; however there are concerns about excessive noise and vibration due to the higher air velocity. The Committee is checking with current users of this type of system for their comments and evaluations.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER cont.

criticized the final review schedule, the Planning Department did an outstanding job under the circumstances. As the cliché sort of goes, "my hat's off to the Department."

Next Item: This month the Board of Directors decided to have the November 25 General Meeting at the new Weaver Library, on Grove Street behind City Hall. This different location, combined with the program being given that evening by Bill Ewen on "The Steamship Nobska- The Last New England Steamship," should make an interesting evening for all.

We are going to try and have more of our General Meetings at various locations in the City. We hope this makes it easier for those members located throughout the City to attend at least some of the meetings and will encourage participation and historic preservation awareness City-wide.

Next Item: The Board of Directors and the By-Laws Committee are in the process of

finalizing both the new By-Laws and the Rule and Procedures for the Society. We feel doing this will improve the structure of the Society and facilitate the way Committees work and will also make Committees more enjoyable for participants and their chairpersons.

In addition, we are implementing a new volunteer program. Pat Millette, our Volunteer Coordinator, will elaborate further in this month's newsletter. It too should help committees and their chairpersons, encourage more participation and make the projects and work we do more enjoyable.

Scott Booth

MUSEUM COMMITTEE cont.

School graduation picture.

Marjorie Welt - Picture of Watchemoket Volunteer Fire Co. #1, taken by her father. Also two Crimson yearbooks for 1913 and 1915. Hoyt graduation program-1908 and two copies of Hoyt School's publication "The Echo".

Edna Anness

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 17 **What a Difference a Bay Makes:** "Down Narragansett Bay with the Wickford Express: An Afternoon of Music Inspired by Narragansett Bay" at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove St. 3:00 p.m. free admission, for information call (401) 434-2453
- November 25 **E.P. Historical Society** November Meeting at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove St. Program: "The *Mobska* The Last New England Steamship," 7:30 p.m.
- December 1 **E.P. Historical Society:** Christmas Open House and Bazaar, at the John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Road, 1 p.m to 5 p.m.
- December 16 **E.P. Historical Society:** December meeting at the Hunt House, 7:30 p.m. Please note the special date and location..

HELP OUR ELVES!!

The success of last year's Open House and Christmas Sale, without a Ways and Means Chair, was a minor miracle. This year Gladys Panzarella and her elves have been busy for months crafting items for the sale.

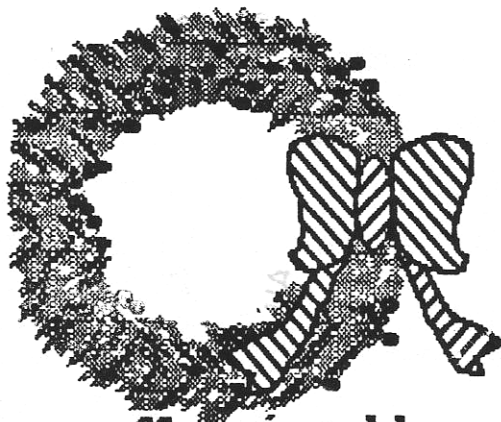
Now we need the same strong volunteer support that made last year's sale such an accomplishment. Donations of baked goods,

jam, jellies, and craft items are always needed. Volunteers to set up on Nov. 30th and to staff the sale on Dec 1st are essential.

Please consider giving an hour or an item. This is your opportunity to show support for the restoration of the Hunt House. The Historical Society needs you again this year!

Claudette Field

**The Elves
welcome the
visits on
Wednesdays
and also**



**December ,
the Great
Day, will
make it
more en-**

**people dropping off
their donations. Re-
member a little time
spent on the 30th of
November and
again on the 1st of**

**joyable and fun for
all. Sign up at the
November meeting
or call 434-5116.
We would love to see
or hear from you.**

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**East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916**



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