

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
December 4, 2013
Legislative Office Building

Members Present: Rep. Emil "Buddy" Altobello, Bernard P. Auger, Jr., Donald J. DeFronzo, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Sally M. Martin, , John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter W. Woodward

Members Not Present: Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Bill Morgan, Thomas Ritter, Barry Williams

Others Present: Angela Cahill, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Jay Drew, Kim Fabrizio, Dr. Matt Warshauer

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

- ◆ The September 30, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.
- ◆ Bob Harris thanked the Commission staff for planning three successful events, the plaque dedication honoring Gerry Caughman, and the installations of the Lincoln portrait and the Forlorn Soldier.
- ◆ *Active Projects:*
 - Jay Drew reported that the cable management project in the House Chamber dais has been completed.
 - We are remodeling two offices in the Information Technology area of the Capitol basement.
 - We have bids coming in for the generator feeder upgrade in the bunker, which will remove the generator feeders from the ground so that they will not be sitting in water when it rains.
 - The new roofing contractor has located and repaired some stress cracks in the gutters. These leaks may have caused a leak above the House Chamber voting board on the east side.
 - We are investigating new lighting options for the Senate lobby.
- ◆ *Maintenance and upgrade projects in process or recently completed:*
 - Eric Connery - CAS (Capitol Area System, operated by the Department of Administrative Services) upgrades to the steam and chilled water lines have been completed on Capitol Avenue. They will return in the spring to continue repairs on the lawn. Commissioner DeFronzo offered to monitor the repairs in the spring.
 - Boiler replacement - The design consultant contract is in place.
 - Battle Flags - Five flags have been selected for conservation over the next two years.
 - We believe we will have funding available for the elevator upgrade next year.
- ◆ *Project checklist:*
 - Eric added that we are continuing to investigate sources for a light blanket for the Old Judiciary Room skylight.

- Skylights – Three proposals to remove the lights are under review.
- Window repairs will begin next summer.

◆ *New Business:*

- Bob Harris invited Dr. Matt Warshauer to speak. He began by thanking the Commission members and staff for their support of the Forlorn Soldier project and assistance with the planning of the dedication ceremony. Approximately 150 Kelly descendants were in attendance to view the unveiling of the statue. One of Dr. Warshauer's graduate students produced a well-researched booklet, which presents the case that the Forlorn Soldier is Connecticut's oldest Civil War soldier figure, and quite possibly the oldest in the nation. The historical importance of the statue is tremendous, and its placement in the Capitol Building is a testament to the Commission's support of maintaining this building as the historical icon that it was designed to be by those who built it.
- He added that his current graduate students are doing a group project researching every civil war item that is located inside and outside of the Capitol building. The research will be placed on the Connecticut Humanities Council website within the next few months. He will work with the Commission on a presentation of their findings.
- He stated that he has become very interested in the Genius, a symbol of Connecticut. It was placed originally on the dome in 1878 when the building opened and removed after the 1938 hurricane and melted down for the war drive. The original plaster cast was retained and eventually, a replica was cast.

Dr. Warshauer would like to take on the effort to get the Genius placed on top of the dome. Dr. Woodward offered his support and assistance as well. Dr. Warshauer described his vision. He stated that he does not want the project to simply involve the physical act of placing the statue on top of the dome. He suggested that the Genius is the perfect representative example of the devotion that our state and our citizens should have to history education and a belief in the humanities. There is a huge topic of debate between STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and the humanities. He expressed his belief that STEM fields and the humanities should act in concert rather than competition with one another. The technology of placing the Genius atop the dome would require the STEM fields, while the reason for placing it there would be more related to the humanities.

He added that he hopes to plan a 3-year project which would bring social studies teachers together for training and support with the new common core. He would tie this project directly to the symbol of the Genius of Connecticut, promoting it to Connecticut universities and colleges, as well to civic associations, as a matter of state and civic pride.

Dr. Warshauer proposed that the fundraising for the Genius project could be raised through the CCSU Foundation, similarly to the Forlorn Soldier project. He will make a written proposal to the Commission, along with creating a letter of agreement between CCSU and the CT General Assembly. Bob Harris offered the support of the Commission for the project. Bob Harris added that although the Commission is able to accept donations, it does not have the specific authority to actively solicit funds.

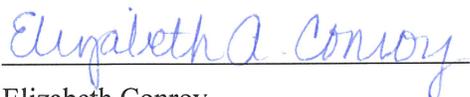
Eric Connery stated that the engineering design for strengthening the lantern is complete. There would be a need for a structural engineer to confirm that the Connecticut earthquake code requirements would not apply to this project. Eric added that the strengthening of the lantern and the subsequent transfer of the statue's weight down through the lantern to the top of the dome should secure the statue. The crane cost to place the Genius on top of the dome has been estimated at \$125,000, and the total cost of the project remains at \$450,000.

- ◆ *Selecting the date for the next Commission meeting:*
 - Bob Harris suggested a mid-March date for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy