

**State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission**  
**December 15, 2014**  
**Legislative Office Building**

Members Present: Rep. Emil "Buddy" Altobello, Bernard P. Auger, Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Jr., Commissioner Donald J. DeFronzo, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Sally M. Martin, William Morgan, Barry Williams

Members Not Present: Thomas Ritter, John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter W. Woodward

Others Present: Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Ken Dixon, Jay Drew, Kim Fabrizio, Liz Ferruggiaro, John Harnick, Tina Mohr, Leslie O'Brien, Jim Tracy, Dr. Matt Warshauer

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.

- ◆ The September 25, 2014 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.
- ◆ *Active projects:* Jay Drew updated the Commission on the project list.
  - The restoration and painting of two of the three roof flagpoles has been completed. The south flag pole was warped, so the contractor could not complete the restoration. An engineering review of all three flagpoles will be conducted.
  - The lower section of the handicapped ramp entrance and the sidewalk below it have been replaced and sealed for the winter.
  - The HVAC unit for the flag room is ready to be installed.
- ◆ *Maintenance and upgrade projects:*
  - The recently repaired dormer in Room 415 did not leak during the recent rain. The necessary plaster repair of the lower section will require a contract due to the cost involved.
  - East-west skylights - There is evidence of leaking now that the stained glass has been removed. We are awaiting an evaluation from the roofing contractor on the repair. Eric Connery added that this skylight project is planned for completion next summer.
  - Battle flag conservation - The 22<sup>nd</sup> regiment and 30<sup>th</sup> have been restored and will be placed on display soon. There have been requests for the 29<sup>th</sup> regiment flag (which must be displayed flat), currently on display in the Capitol basement, to be moved to a more prominent place on the first floor. Eric Connery is looking into potential display areas and researching funding for such a project. Such a project would require display cases, lighting, and fire protection. Dr. Warshauer added that the fact that the flags are on display is quite unique, and we surpass any of the other state capitols with the number of Civil War artifacts on display. The prominent display of the 29<sup>th</sup> regiment flag is important not only to the history of the Civil War and Connecticut's role in it, but to current day individuals studying the history. There is even a class at Suffield Academy actively working on a digital project related to the 29<sup>th</sup> regiment.

- Wheelchair lifts – The current lifts are operational, and there are manual cranks in place in case of failure. The improvements to the lifts have been postponed until the summer. We plan on doing an accessibility study to address many of the issues that need attention in addition to the lifts. We will then bundle all of the items and seek bidders to complete the work.
- ◆ *Checklist update:* Eric reported that there were no changes to the checklist since last quarter.
- ◆ *Projects on hold pending funding:*
  - Genius Statue - Dr. Warshauer gave the Commission an update. All research related to the Genius statue has been completed, which included newspaper articles and archives, including the Travelers' records. After January 1<sup>st</sup>, he will meet with several groups, including the CT Humanities Council, the CCSU Foundation. At the next meeting, he will present a fully detailed agenda.
  - There are no updates on the exterior cleaning and restoration, elevator interior upgrade, office lights replacement or blast mitigation. We have not found a suitable solution for the blast mitigation project. Bill Morgan stressed the importance of finding a way to complete the exterior cleaning and restoration of the building and for the Commission to be the advocate of the building. Eric responded that we might reasonably be able to expect funding in two years. Jay Drew commented that although lighting technology is advancing and we have been on the cutting edge of some of it, there is still not a viable option for the office light replacement or the Capitol dome lighting at this time.
- ◆ *New business:*
  - Senate caucus room antique telephone booth - The Senate has asked that the telephone booth be relocated from its current location in Room 321. The Commission approved it being relocated to just outside the caucus room temporarily, pending an acceptable permanent location. Eric will report on potential permanent locations at the next Commission meeting.
  - "Qui Transtulit Sustinet" - The State Library has requested that they be permitted to add Gerry Caughman's "Qui Transtulit Sustinet" flag book to its digital archives, as Gerry had placed the copyright on the book in the name of the Commission. The Commission approved the request. Bill Morgan asked that the State Library acknowledges the accomplishments of Gerry on the site, reminding the State of the great work she did for Connecticut.
  - Elevator issues - The accessibility study will include investigating the addition of a fourth elevator. At present, when the west elevator malfunctions, there is no way to access the 4<sup>th</sup> floor except via the stairwell. If the study were to recommend this addition, the Commission would be given the option to approve it.
  - Engineering consultant - We are about to award the contracts. Eric asked that BBH be added to the approved list so that they can work on the Genius project when it begins. The Commission approved this request.

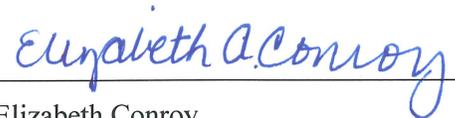
- Bob Harris announced that Benny Auger will be resigning from the Commission and thanked him for his years of service.
- Sen. Crisco also asked that the Commission thank Commissioner DeFronzo for his work on the Commission, as his term will be ending.
- ◆ Selecting the date for the next Commission meeting:
  - Bob Harris suggested a mid-March date for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



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Eric Connery



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Elizabeth Conroy