

The City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

CHAPTER 1977-22

No. 343 **AN ORDINANCE** AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF THE SUM OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM ITEM "0" CITY TREASURER TO ITEM "1" DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE RECORDS OF THE TOWN MEETINGS OF PROVIDENCE.

Approved May 22, 1977

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

SECTION 1. The sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars, or so much thereof that may be necessary, is hereby transferred from Treasurer's Office Item "0", Personal Services, to City Clerk Item "1", Services other than Personal, for the publication of records of the Town Meetings of Providence.

SECTION 2. Such sums as may be necessary shall be expended upon submission of vouchers to the City Clerk, who shall submit the same to the Committee on Finance for its approval for payment.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 5 1977
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

Vincent Cespeis
CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 16 1977
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

Robert J. Hutton
RESIDENT
Vincent Cespeis
CLERK

APPROVED
Vincent A. Cairns
MAY 22 1977

No.

CHAPTER
AN ORDINANCE

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1977
CITY CLERK

MAY 3 1977

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 16 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Vincent Vespa
CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

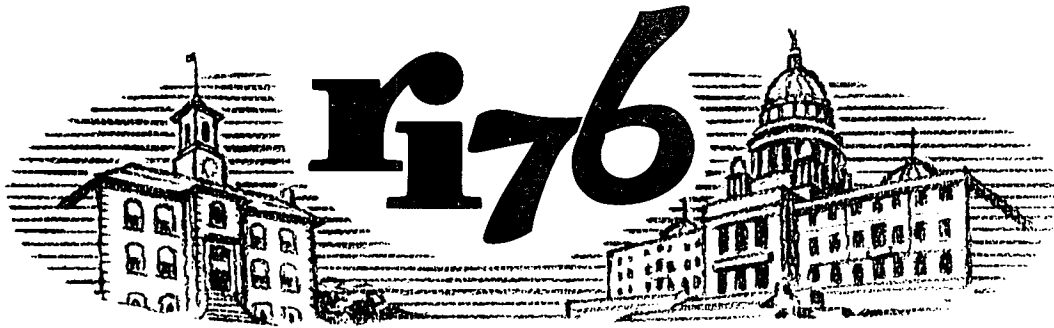
Approves Passage of
The Within Ordinance

Vincent Vespa
Chairman

4/28/77

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1977
CITY CLERK

Councilman McKinnin



March 2, 1977

Honorable Donald E. McKiernan
211 Vermont Avenue
Providence, RI 02905

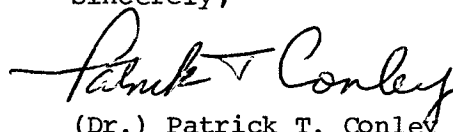
Dear Councilman McKiernan:

Enclosed are the details of a project which you initiated in 1968, and which Mayor Cianci adopted in January of 1975. We at the Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation believe that the publication of the Providence Town Meeting Records would be one of the major scholarly undertakings of the Rhode Island Bicentennial observance.

Although your initial proposal received no response from Mayor Doorley, Mayor Cianci enthusiastically embraced it. An informal agreement was reached between the Mayor and myself, with Mr. Carl Stenberg present, that the Bicentennial Commission would expend money and editorial effort to transcribe the Town Meeting Records, and this contribution would be matched in dollars by the City of Providence in an amount up to \$5,000. In reliance on that promise the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission secured and expended federal funds in the amount of \$3,074, and in-kind editorial services in the amount of \$1,800, for a total of \$4,874. Mayor Cianci has informed us that there are no monies available in his account to meet the City's promise of matching funds. Therefore, the completion of the project is in jeopardy, and the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission is in danger of having to return over \$3,000 to the federal government from our already depleted treasury.

If the project is to be brought to fruition, it is essential that we receive the matching funds from the City of Providence. I urge you and your fellow councilmen to act favorably on the request of the Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation for the promised grant in the amount of \$4,874.00 - our deadline is April 15.

Sincerely,


(Dr.) Patrick T. Conley
Chairman

PTC:hsh
Enclosures



Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission **Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation**
The Old State House 150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 401-272-1776

American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration
2401 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20276

REC'D DEC 15 1975



DEC 9 1975

Mr. Ronald G. Tracey
Executive Director
Rhode Island Bicentennial
Commission
150 Benefit Street
Old State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Tracey:

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration Matching Project Grant Number 76-19-4380 is hereby awarded in the amount of Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$4,350.00) to the State of Rhode Island, effective October 15, 1975 for Publication of Providence Town Meeting Records 1763-1790.

This grant, to aid in developing and supporting Bicentennial projects, is made under the authority of Section 9(b) to PL 93-179, from funds appropriated by the Congress, in accordance with your Application for Federal Assistance and the ARBA Project Matching Grant Guidelines both incorporated herein by reference. The Application for Federal Assistance includes Part IV Assurances, which requires compliance with FMC 74-4 and FMC 74-7.


Payment under this grant is now being processed and should be received by you in approximately three weeks. For any further assistance, guidance or information, please contact your ARBA Regional Director.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Fredman".

B. Fredman
Contracting Officer

File

<p align="center">APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE (SHORT FORM) PART I</p>		<p>1. Applicant's Application No. 75-200-17-01</p>	
<p>2. Federal Grantor Agency American Revolution Bicentennial Adm Organizational Unit States Coordinator, Region I Administrative Office 2401 E Street, N.W. Street Address - P.O. Box Washington D.C. 20276 City State Zip Code</p>		<p>3. Applicant Name Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission Department Division 150 Benefit Street The Old State House Street Address - P.O. Box Providence City County Rhode Island 02903 State Zip Code</p>	
<p>4. Descriptive Name of the Project Publication of Providence Town Meeting Records 1763-1790</p>			
<p>5. Federal Catalog No.</p>		<p>6. Federal Funding Requested \$ 1,300,000</p>	
<p>7. Grantee Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State, _____ County, _____ City, _____ Other (Specify)</p>			
<p>8. Type of Application or Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Grant, _____ Supplement, _____ Other Charges (Specify)</p>			
<p>9. Type of Assistance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant, _____ Loan, _____ Other (Specify)</p>			
<p>10. Population Directly Benefiting from the Project People of Rhode Island</p>		<p>12. Length of Project One year</p>	
<p>11. Congressional District a. 88 b.</p>		<p>13. Beginning Date 10-15-75</p>	
		<p>14. Date of Application 10-01-75</p>	
<p>15. The applicant certifies that to the best of his knowledge and belief, the data in this application are true and correct, and that he will comply with the attached assurances if he receives the grant.</p>			
<p>Typed name Ronald G. Tracey</p>		<p>Title Executive Director</p>	
<p>Signature of authorized representative </p>		<p>Telephone Number AREA CODE NUMBER EXT. 401 272-1776</p>	
<p align="center">For Federal Use Only</p>			

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE (Short Form)

PART II - BUDGET DATA

Object Class Categories	Current Approved Budget (a)	Change Requested (b)	New or Revised Budget (c)
1. Personnel			4,140
2. Fringe Benefits			-
3. Travel			-
4. Equipment			360
5. Supplies			300
6. Contractual Printing			5,000
7. Construction			-
8. Other Promotion & Distribution			1,350
9. Total Direct Charges			-
10. Indirect Charges			-
11. TOTAL			11,150
12. Federal Share			4,350
13. Non-Federal Share			6,800
14. Program Income			

15. Detail on Indirect Costs:

Type of Rate (Mark one box)

 Provisional Predetermined Final Fixed

Rate _____ % Base \$ _____ Total Amount \$ _____

PART III

Program Narrative Statement

(Attach additional sheets, if necessary)

See sheet attached.

Providence Town Records

The Providence Town Records comprise the minutes of the Providence Town Meetings. These records provide us with a first-hand account of the operations of colonial town government, and are a primary source material for historical research.

The Providence Town Records are handwritten and in extremely fragile condition. It is imperative that these minutes be transcribed before they are lost to the destructive forces of time. This proposal calls for the publication of those Town Records written during Rhode Island's Revolutionary Era -- 1763-1790.

REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OR REIMBURSEMENT		Federal Agency and Organizational Element ARBA	Funding Activity or Other Identifying No.
3. Type of Payment Requested a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advance <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement		b. <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial	4. Basis of Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrued Expenditures
5. Partial Payment Request No. 75-200-17-01		6. Period Covered (Month, Day, Year) FROM 10 15 75 TO 01 15 75	
7. Grantee Account No. or Identifying No.		8. Name of Grantee Organization	
9. Employer Identification No.		10. Name of Payee (if different than item 9)	
<u>R.I. Bicentennial Commission</u> <small>STREET NO. AND NAME</small> Old State House <u>150 Benefit Street</u> <small>CITY STATE ZIP CODE</small> Providence R.I. 02903		<u>R.I. Bicentennial Foundation</u> <small>STREET NO. AND NAME</small> Old State House <u>150 Benefit Street</u> <small>CITY STATE ZIP CODE</small> Providence R.I. 02903	


11. COMPUTATION OF AMOUNT REQUESTED

	PROGRAMS — FUNCTIONS — ACTIVITIES			TOTAL
	(1)	(2)	(3)	
a. Total program outlays to date as of _____	\$	\$	\$	\$ —
b. Less: Cumulative program income				—
c. Net program outlays				—
d. Estimated net cash outlays for advance period				1,200
e. Total of Lines c and d				1,200
f. Non-Federal share of amount on Line e				450
g. Federal share of amount on Line e				750
h. Federal payments previously requested				—
i. Federal share now requested				750
j. Monthly advance requirements:				
(1) 1st month				
(2) 2nd month				
(3) 3rd month				

12. REMARKS (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation IRS letter attached.
 Binet attached.
 This project is in the furtherance of the overall programs of
 Bicentennial for the State of Rhode Island
 City of Providence certified matching funds of \$5,000
 Budget Data attached.

13. I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the data reported above is correct and that all outlays were made in accordance with grant conditions and that payment is due and has not been previously requested.

Name Ronald G. Tracey	Title Exec. Director	TELEPHONE	
		Area Code 401	Number 272
		Ext. 1776	
Signature of Authorized Official 		Date Report is Submitted	

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

PROVIDENCE TOWN MEETING RECORDS BUDGET

		<u>One Year</u>
I.	Bicentennial Commission Federal Request	
	Secretary for transcribing \$3.00/hr. 15 hrs. per week	\$2,340.
	Office supplies (i.e. paper, copy reproduction)	300
	Office equipment (typewriter rental) \$30 per month	360
	Promotion and Distribution	<u>1,350</u>
		\$4,350
II.	Matching Funds	
	Printing Cost (City of Providence)	5,000
	Editors (In-kind) 2 @ \$12/hr. 150 hours total	1,800
III.	Total Project Costs	\$11,150.00
	Total Cash Match	5,000.00
	Total In-kind	1,800.00
	Total Request	4,350.00

Address any reply to: JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, Mass. 02203

Department of the Treasury

P.O. Box 9081

District Director

Internal Revenue Service

Date:

Feb. 1, 1972

In reply refer to:

AU:EO:JD



Rhode Island Bicentennial Foundation
28 Hayes Street (Room 209)
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Gentlemen:

This is in reply to your application for exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We note that you were organized by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and are a part of that governmental structure. You are therefore considered as an instrumentality of the State of Rhode Island. Accordingly, you are exempt from Federal income tax, although not as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

You are not required to file Federal tax returns as long as you retain an exempt status.

Contributions made to you are deductible by donors as provided in section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, if made for exclusively public purposes.

This is a determination letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William E. Williams".

WILLIAM E. WILLIAMS
District Director

ZONING

1/9/69

Effort to Change Code Is a Long, Slow Process

By JAMES F. LAFFAN

Overhauling Providence's 1951 zoning code has proven a slower process than the abortive attempt to revise the state constitution.

There has been nearly a full year of inaction since the city council ordinance committee announced plans last February to conduct a series of public hearings on a proposed new zoning ordinance developed by a 30-month federally financed study.

No hearings have yet been held but that is still the procedure the committee intends to follow, Councilman Anthony B. Sciarretta, D-Ward 6, the chairman, reported.

In outlining his 1969 legislative program earlier this week, Mayor Joseph A. Doorley Jr. mentioned the possibility of seeking a new enabling act to make the new zoning ordinance effective "the council acts on it."

Mr. Sciarretta, however, suggested, as he did last year, that the hearings might take up too much time to permit submission of the legislation to the General Assembly.

He explained that this year's scheduled hearings were not held because

ing out public opinion on them, Mr. Sciarretta said.

He reported also that the committee will have to ask a special appropriation to cover expenses of the hearings, including a full stenographic record of their proceedings.

The committee met yesterday and acted on three other matters, two of them zoning change petitions on which public hearings were held in September and November.

The third matter involves a proposal to reproduce records of Providence town meetings dating back to the 17th century, to provide students and researchers with a valuable source material while preserving the original records from further deterioration.

The committee recommended

ed passage of a resolution sponsored by Councilman Donald E. McKiernan, D-Ward 10, to empower City Clerk Vincent Vespa to have the original records reproduced.

Recommended was the rezoning of 10 vacant lots bounded by Collyer, Powell and White Streets, near the Sears, Roebuck Co. parking lot for industrial use. The committee was told in September that a chemical research plant is interested in the site.

Also recommended was the rezoning for industrial use of four vacant lots at Plain and Borden Streets which the Robison Rayon Co. Inc., a yarn dyeing and processing firm at 86 Cray St., holds an option to buy.



COUNCILMAN
DONALD E. MCKIERNAN
72 HARRIET ST.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES
—
PUBLIC WELFARE

January 6, 1969

Prof. Patrick T. Conley
Dept. of History
Providence College
River Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a statement which I delivered before the City Council on December 5, 1968, in which I urged the editing and publication of the Providence Town Meeting Records. Being an educator and the holder of an advanced degree in History, I have a particular interest in this project.

Because of your acknowledged proficiency and concern for Rhode Island History, I request your candid observations on the desirability of this undertaking in order that I may present your views to the appropriate committee of the City Council.

Thanking you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and enlightened remarks, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald E. McKiernan".

Donald E. McKiernan

Statement by Councilman Donald E. McKiernan in Support of His Resolution to Publish the Providence Town Meeting Records

December 5, 1968.

The Providence Town Meeting Records are, with the exception of the Rhode Island Colonial Records, the most valuable source for the history of our state during the colonial and early national periods. This series represents a fine example of the "pure" democratic town meeting form of government, a type of political organization which has won the unstinting praise of many who have analyzed American governmental institutions. Alexis de Tocqueville in his classic critique of American democracy remarked that "town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and how to enjoy it."

The Providence Town Meeting manuscripts are significant, however, not only because they record the operations of a pure democracy; they are also notable because of the important role which Providence itself played in American historical development. Our community, in the tradition of Roger Williams, was a pioneer in religious liberty and church-state separation; it was in the vanguard of the movement for independence; it was the principal exponent of Federalism and ratification in the period 1787-1790, and it was a leader in the state constitutional reform movement of the early nineteenth century. These outstanding achievements are vividly traced in the Town Meeting Records together with other momentous developments such as Providence's

rise to a position of commercial and industrial prominence.

The remarkable saga of Providence during its formative years deserves to be more fully known. For this reason, I urge the editing and publication of the manuscript town meeting records now stored in the office of the City Clerk. This scholarly and culturally enriching enterprise will be of great service not only to antiquarians and genealogists but also, because of the importance of Providence in American development, to the critical students of American political, legal, and economic history.

TO: Mayor Vincent Cianci

FROM: Professor Patrick T. Conley

SUBJECT: The Publication of the Providence Town Meeting Records

DATE: January 23, 1975

The Providence Town Meeting Records are, with the exception of the Rhode Island Colonial Records, the most valuable source for the history of our state during the colonial and early national periods. This series represents a fine example of the "pure" democratic town meeting form of government, a type of political organization which has won the unstinting praise of many who have analyzed American governmental institutions. Alexis de Tocqueville in his classic critique of American democracy remarked that "town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and how to enjoy it."

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Although these valuable source materials should be made widely available to scholars and researchers, mere reproduction is not the proper way to accomplish this end. They deserve careful, critical editing by professional historians, for only such treatment is commensurate with their significance. Mere reproduction would be of little value. This simple procedure is inadequate for the demands of contemporary historical scholarship.

A record of this importance should be critically edited and annotated by trained historians according to the canons of their discipline. Standard preparation procedures such as those employed by the editors of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson should be utilized on the Providence Town Records project. That is, individuals mentioned prominently in the records should be identified by a capsule biography, town meetings should be placed in their proper historical context, background information, both state and national, should be furnished to explicate noteworthy proclamations and resolutions, and the impact of the material to be published on contemporary historical knowledge should be indicated.

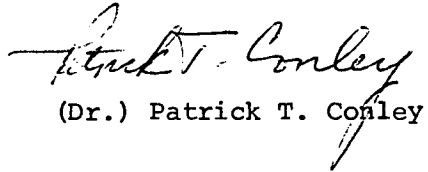
Properly performed, this task is not a simple one. Therefore, the services of trained scholars would be required. I would be willing to serve as editor of this project. The enterprise would also require assistance of a secretary to prepare the manuscript for the printer. The usual office materials would also be needed.

The editor and staff would work under the supervision of the City Clerk and properly acknowledge his assistance and cooperation in the preface of the published volume.

When the project was completed the city would arrange for publication, and would receive royalties from the sale of copies to libraries and individuals. These royalties should more than offset the expenses incurred and would, perhaps, return a profit to the city.

I hope this plan meets with your satisfaction and enlists your support.

Sincerely,


(Dr.) Patrick T. Conley

Anniversary approaches

James J. Doyle

As the year draws near with the anniversary of the signing, fittingly enough, this year in Massachusetts where the trouble got started in 1775. Nationally, there are complaints that there is no central focus developing for the observance. Each state commission goes its own way without central guidance from the national commission.

I am well aware that the Rhode Island commission has been active and that, at least, on the local commissions there have been active. I sense no awareness of the problems, either to home and notebook keep in mind.



to get a letter from... Vincent A. Cianci Jr.,... and Dr. Joel A. Coates... University of... Providence... 1930... 1900... the... of... Providence... that the... the... of... Providence...

for a new, up-to-date state history... National Endowment for the... effort failed... requests from many states... funding the writing of... every state in the Union. Some... have been announced, but... know, there has been no... who will write the Rhode... and what it will encompass.

After this is done, I hope the author will... about the "Declaration of... which Rhode Island passed... 1776, two full months before the... in Philadelphia. I... curious about the state... even before I came to live and... splendid men, I used to think.

What actually happened might be... a typical back-into-it operation... General Assembly. The declaration... kind of positive statement that... national statement. Oh, there is what must have then been the... denunciation of George III for... acts.

For the actual declaration is simply a... of the repeal of "An Act for the... Securing to His Majesty, the... of His Subjects in this His... and Dominion of Rhode Island and... Plantations". Repeal is a pretty... I grant you, but it's as... a bowl of cold gruel.

Come to think of it, is anything being done about a re-enactment of the passage and signing of the declaration? We here tend to think of dramatic things like the burning of the *Gaspee*, and Lord knows, that was indeed a dramatic incident, exciting and all the rest. Even the Battle of Aquidneck has been refought.

I'm sure there is plenty of source material on which a re-creation of the event in the Old State House could be built. And we have in hand the Old State House itself as the scene for a filming of the event — something that could be made part of a history curriculum in public schools for the future.

Meanwhile, I wait with patience for the turn of Rhode Island to have reprinted the guide to the state put together in the Great Depression by men and women on the payroll of the Works Progress Administration. That series of state guides was beautifully done, and even today, it makes good background reading.

A daring New York publisher has undertaken the chore of updating and reprinting the old books. Not much will have changed, I think. There will have to be new maps, of course, but the basic history and background need only to be extended to cover the years since the book first went to press. The old guide still offers solid stuff.

James J. Doyle is editor of *The Journal-Bulletin* editorial pages.

Publish Town Meeting Records

1763-1790

Records already transcribed
edited 3 must Only Cohen Appleton
waiting Publ.

Expended 4,875 R. 176

3,075 Cas.
1,800 in hand

Mayor Agreed to match in kind or
\$5,000 -

City reneges must return 3,075 to Fed Govt
only Fed. Grant defaulted on.

Check to R.F. Brent. Foundation