

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOONER ERNESTINA COMMISSION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 8, 2010

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New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Office  
33 Williams Street  
New Bedford, MA

Commissioners in attendance: Ken Foley, Laura Pires-Hester, Robert Hildreth, Steve Walsh, Jen Nersesian

Quorum present.

Also present: Renee Dufour(DCR)

Public Attendants: Steven Guan, Mary Anne McQuillan, Chuck Smiler, Fred Zinger, Hank Riley, Fred Sterner

Motion to accept minutes of the last meeting, Steve Walsh, Seconded by Ken Foley,1 abstained so moved.

Bob reported that he was very sorry to hear about Ken's retirement. He expressed his gratitude for his service on behalf of the commission. He is pleased that Ken will remain on board the commission as the DCR designee for the time being.

Forum Planning Committee:

Mary Anne McQuillan reported that a meeting was held earlier in the day to continue the planning. In attendance for the forum Consuls from Cape Verde, Canada and Portugal. Good news was received recently in that the Island Foundation did come through with a grant of 10K to put the forum on. As a commission and forum planning committee videos were viewed from Rick Lopes/Comcast which will be played during the forum.

As of this date there are 92 people registered. Bob Hildreth thanked everyone for their efforts in planning this event.

Motion to consider resolution of 1K to the forum was moved by Laura Pires-Hester, Seconded by Jen Nersesian and motion passed.

Programming Committee: Laura Pires Hester reported that the Communities of Whaling Exhibit is now up at the National Park and is being well received.

Chuck Smiler attended the Boy Scout Jamboree and was assisted by Jim Verny another volunteer. They did a knot tying program and met with about 50-60 boy scouts.

The Working Waterfront Festival was very successful, over 2k people in attendance. SEMA rec'd \$700 in donations from that weekend.

Program Ideas for the future were recently discussed:

Tall Ships gathering on the East Coast. If there was interest in this idea Chuck Smiler will pursue with Matt Morrissey and Kristin Decas, both of the city of New Bedford.

Art of ERNS exhibit at the Whaling Museum produced a brochure that has been sent out.

There was discussion around creating a speakers bureau that can travel and move around to deliver the ERNS message in a variety of places.

Discussion around having a Cape Verdean Festa for the ERNS birthday on February.

Maintenance Issue: RFR for rigging is going out hopefully by the end of the month. Renee will work with Doug Leab.

Renee will work with Manny to generate a list of all projects that need to be completed and then some potential work parties can be established.

\*Ken did report that the DCR volunteer policy will be out shortly which will reflect some changes in how SEMA goes about its efforts with the ERNS.

### Old Business

Open Meeting Law: Ken Foley clarified that a subcommittee of the commission should be following the open meeting law rules.

Archivist Recommendations: Ken Foley addressed the Archivist recommendations and expressed interest in moving forward with the recommendations. Ken Foley motion to move forward, Seconded by Steve Walsh, Discussion took place: Chuck Smiler would like to see some items be on loan to locations rather than be a final resting place. Many folks felt that having access to these archives is very important. Folks suggested the possibility of some local places such as New Bedford Public Library, UMASS Dartmouth and the Whaling Museum. Folks also felt that it isn't a good idea to send items to different places, they would rather see everything remain together.

The vote was tabled and will continue discussion with Sean and concerns for one month. Motion was withdrawn. Bob Hildreth motions to proceed with recommendations of 8-18-10 without committing the material in question to any one repository and for Sean to explore other local repositories and keep the collection as a whole. Seconded by Laura Pires Hester, motion passed.

Empty Commission Seats: Bob Hildreth will speak with Brian Rothschild from UMASS Dartmouth to see if he may be interested.

### Public Comment

Fred Sterner- Talks about at the model of the Gazella and how it functions and organizes volunteers. Something we should look into and potential person to speak with is Steve Hopkins.

Hank Riley- Echoes Chuck Smilers comments about the archives and wants to see it moved along.

Stephen Guan- Reported on the Gloucester Schooner Festival, many volunteers and it was well attended. Also mentions that Billy Joel is a celebrity yet, MA man who is into wooden boats and maybe could be tapped as a resource, funder.

Motion to adjourn Steve Walsh, Seconded by Laura Pires Hester, motion passed.

