

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 30 MARCH 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)
Jack Chapin (Designee of James McGinn, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Graham McKay (Marine Archaeologist)
Jonathan Patton (Designee of Brona Simon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
Dan Sampson (Designee of Bruce Carlisle, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
Nadia Waski (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Driscoll (Designee, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)
Gary Murad (Dive Community Representative)

PROCEEDINGS:

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone at 1:35 PM on 30 March 2017 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street in Boston.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes 26 January 2017

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 26 January 2017. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Graham McKay moved to accept the minutes of the 26 January 2017 public meeting. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center

Following-up on the earlier site visit by Victor and others to the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, the Center decided to sponsor an ***Unusual Catches Day*** event at the Center on Saturday, February 4th, 1-4 PM;. They asked Victor to organize a panel of experts to examine these catches. Our panel of maritime archeologists and shipwreck experts will consist of Vic Mastone, Calvin Mires, David Robinson, and Arne Carr. We were also joined by Board members Marcie Bilinski and Graham McKay. The event attracted several active and retired fishermen to bring artifacts they have pulled up while fishing, their "Treasure from the Deep". The panel examined these artifacts and provided some insights about their age and function. Many members of the public were also in attendance. He said his favorite artifact was a walrus skull with one tusk. They cannot tell if it were ancient or something more recent and highly degraded. Victor has tasked Rico Roldan with researching these finds. That report will be provided to the Center who will then contact the participants.

B. Bay State Council of Divers

Victor stated the Bay State Council of Divers (BSC) met on February 8 at the South Shore Neptunes Club House in Quincy. The focus of the meeting was on shoreline access issues and building awareness to this problem. They held an open meeting at the Boston Sea Rovers scuba diving event to build public awareness of this growing problem and engage help of dive community members. He had not heard about the outcome of that meeting.

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C. Plymouth to Salisbury Area Committee

Victor stated he participated in the meeting of Plymouth to Salisbury, MA Area Committee for Oil Spill Response on February 22. It was held at the EPA Lab in Chelmsford. The agenda dealt with sinking petroleum products.

Change in the Order of Business

Victor stated that as chair he would be changing the order of business and move directly to Old Business and then New Business.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Raymond Hayes

Victor reported that Raymond Hayes has submitted a renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Given the high quality of work and reporting detailed in the past and current renewal applications, Victor asked the Board to consider granting renewal. Mr. Hayes was not present to represent his request. There was no further discussion.

Graham McKay moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) held by Raymond A. Hayes for his Great Harbor, Woods Hole site with all standard conditions in effect. Dan Sampson seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

B. James M. Karos

Victor reported that James Karos had not submitted his Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report. Mr. Karos was not in attendance to represent his permit. Victor noted he still had not heard from Mr. Karos. He observed that was quite unusual and speculated this might be due to Mr. Karos's continuing his education efforts

Victor recommended that in keeping with past practice the Board should consider granting an additional extension. He noted it was the Board's policy to grant up to two consecutive extensions and this would be a second extension. If the Board agreed to the extension, he inform Mr. Karos that Board would allow his permit to lapse at its May meeting unless he submitted his renewal application or could provide the Board with an adequate explanation as to why it should grant further extensions.

Marcie Bilinski moved to extend the expiration date for Reconnaissance Permit (06-001) held by James M. Karos for his Chelsea Creek site in Revere/Boston/Chelsea until the next scheduled meeting of the Board for May 25, 2017 with all standard conditions remaining in effect. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

C. David S. Robinson & Associates, Inc.

Victor reported that David S. Robinson & Associates, Inc. had not submitted their Special Use Permit renewal application for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Remediation Project. Mr. Robinson had called and requested an extension until the next scheduled Board meeting in May. He was not in attendance to represent his application. There was no further discussion.

Dan Sampson moved to extend the expiration date of Special Use Permit (14-001) held David S. Robinson & Associates, Inc., for New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Remediation Project in Fairhaven until the next regularly scheduled meeting of Board on May 25, 2016, with all conditions remaining in effect. Jon Patton seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

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D. Nicholas Snyder

Victor reported the Nicholas Snyder had submitted his excavation permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Gary Esper, the Project Director, present to represent Mr. Snyder's request.

Mr. Esper reported they have some prospective investors from New York who want to help them move the project along. He has provided Victor a copy of the proposed contract. Victor stated their attorney wanted to discuss her review with him prior to providing it to the Board. Marcie asked why. He noted she was new the office and the Board's issues or our statute. She had many preliminary comments for revision. Victor said he could not go into detail, but there were incompatible language between the proposed subcontract and the Board's terminology. Victor believed that once he and our attorney concurred on language it would be sent back to Esper and his subcontractor for review and revision. It would then go to the Board for final review and approval.

Mr. Esper asked, with the Board's permission, could they be allowed to continue working there with them, such as scanning and such or does the agreement need to have been approved first. Victor there is nothing to preclude that work, but this could not be seen as an implied approval of the subcontracting agreement. The risk would be entirely on their part. Anyone could certainly work with or for you, it is the subcontracting of rights to the value of the permit that requires prior approval by the Board. Again, there is nothing to preclude them from assisting you, but that cannot be taken to mean the Board would approve the agreement.

Dan Sampson asked they had any identity for the site they are looking at. Mr. Esper responded not yet, but they have found some small tacks, nails. They were interested in that area because it was relatively desolate until mid-nineteenth century. Marcie noted she was still interested in diving the area with them. Graham asked about their prospective partners. Mr. Esper said one owned a commercial dive company and another's business was remote sensing. Mr. Esper said he would let the Board know if they decided to go into the field.

Marcie Bilinski moved to grant renewal of Excavation Permit No. 11-002 held Nicholas Snyder for his Gloucester site with all standard and the further conditions to allow only limited excavation activities as described in your work plan and that an inventory of artifacts and other items recovered must be submitted to the Board prior to transfer to any conservation facility outside Massachusetts. Graham McKay seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Isolated Find Exemption –Eric Wysk – Newbury

Victor reported in the late Fall he had been informed of some ancient coins having been recovered from a beach on Plum Island. From the information provided to him, he could not identify the involved party and asked for the assistance of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP). They were able to identify Eric Wysk who willingly transferred the 24 coins to MEP. The coins were then transfer to the Board so would could examine and identify them. Victor subsequently met with Mr. Wysk, his wife and son at the location where he and his wife had recovered the coins. He then presented the coins to the Board members for examination. Given the type of objects and the circumstances of the recovery, Victor did not believe they constitute an archaeological site.

Mr. Wysk stated they went out there on the first day school to basically kill time and test their equipment. They walked about three miles along the beach and then decided to return to the parking to make sure they met the school bus at home. His wife finds a little flake metal which he saw was a coin. They found a few more and then ran out of time and had to leave. He brought them to a local coins dealer who basically said it look like coin and suggested they go back there. They took the next day off and returned to the area and fond the rest. He got on Facebook and started investigating them. They started getting two to three hundred comments on the pictures of the coins. A first you think you have

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something history changing and then as you put the dates together you realize it's not history changing but it's someone's collection. Perhaps lost off a ship or stolen and dumped there.

Victor noted to be clear these were found up on the rack line close to private residence on the beach, well outside the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and State property to north. Victor relayed that he had mentioned these finds to an avocation archaeologist he's friend with. That person recollected this find was similar to ads in comic book about buying a bag of old coins, one silver or gold coin guaranteed, typically Roman. He went on to further speculate it look like someone bought the bag of coins and then buried them on the beach for the grandchildren to find. These coins are so common that they have no value and there are many fakes out there. Victor also noted that the coins were examined by a faculty member at the Wentworth Institute, who said many were very common Byzantine period coins in the Mediterranean, and similarly, a friend found the same to be true in England.

Marcie Bilinski noted this explains a question she got at Beneath the Sea in New Jersey. She was at the exhibit for the Greek Project and it someone came up she was on our Board. A person asked her if she knew about the find on Plum Island. Victor noted this was not the first time he's heard about such finds on Plum Island; it was however the first time actually saw the coins and met the finder.

Jack Chapin moved to waive jurisdiction over isolated find number 2017-IF-0003 recovered from Newbury Beach in off Newbury and relinquish all rights, title and interest to the Eric Wysk. Marcie Bilinski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Change in the Order of Business

Victor stated that as chair he would be changing the order of business at this point and move to Director's Report, Board Member Reports and Public Engagement Activities.

5. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board member reports.

6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Cohasset Public Library

Victor stated gave a lecture at the Cohasset Public Library the night of March 2nd. The topic was Board's on-going research on the first Minot's Ledge Lighthouse. Over twenty people were in attendance including descendant relatives of Assistant Keeper Joseph Antoine who perished when the lighthouse collapsed. The library had on display the original note in a bottle from the keepers on that night.

B. Northeast Anthropological Association

Victor reported attended the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Anthropological Association on March 3 and 4 at Bridgewater State University. He noted that Dr. Calvin Mires gave a paper their collaborative research and student training.

C. Boston Sea Rovers Annual Underwater Clinic

Victor reported that he participated in the 2017 Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic on March 10 and 11 in Danvers. As with last few years, he had a display at the Massachusetts Environmental Trust table and assist at the Trust and Division of Marine Fisheries tables.

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D. North Shore High School Marine Science Symposium

Victor reported that he participated in the 5th Annual North Shore High School Marine Sciences Symposium on March 16 at Salem State University. Originally planned for March 15, it was rescheduled due to the snow storm. The symposium and workshops were organized by the Massachusetts Marine Educations Association in collaboration with Northeastern University and Salem State University. He was assisted by Dr. Calvin Mires and Capt. Laurel Seaborn of SAMAHP. They lead two workshops on mapping shipwreck site using a mock 3D shipwreck built by Greg Lott.

E. South Shore Neptunes Scuba Club

Victor reported that he would be giving a lecture on April 2 at 7 PM to the South Shore Neptunes Scuba Club in Quincy. Victor has not determined the topic at this time.

F. Bridgewater State University

Victor reported that he will be giving a lecture on archaeological law and ethics to undergraduate students in ANTH 398: *Shipwrecks and Shore* at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater on April 5. The class is being taught by Dr. Calvin Mires. On the following Saturday, April 8, he will be co-leading with Dr. Mires a site documentation exercise involving students from that class at the *City of Taunton* shipwreck site in Somerset.

G. Monomoy Middle School

Victor reported that on June 8 and 9 he will giving four lectures on underwater archaeology in Massachusetts to students at the Monomoy Middle School in Chatham. The students are studying local maritime heritage. If possible, he might have students participate in mapping the mock 3D shipwreck.

H. Where STEM Meets History: Maritime Archaeology Field School

Victor reported that BUAR Director will be collaborating SEAMAHP on the PAST Foundations NPS National Maritime Heritage Grant project entitled "Where STEM Meets History: Maritime Archaeology Field School" it will be held at NPS Salem National Maritime Historic Site and TTOR's Crane Estate. It is two one-week programs with June 19-23 for high school students/teachers and June 26-30 for middle school student/teachers. BUAR assisted in designing the program.

I. Salem State University Summer Institute - Maritime Archaeology of the North Shore

Victor reported he will again be co-leading a SSU summer institute (workshop) during the week of August 14-18, 2017 with Dr. Calvin Mires and Captain Laurel Seaborn, both of the Seafaring Education and Maritime Archaeological Heritage Program. Victor noted he will using vacation leave. Participants will receive three undergraduate credit hours from Salem State University and a certificate from the Nautical Archaeology Society. This course will use one or two shipwreck sites on the North Shore with beach access. It is intended to be a starting point for training citizen scientist volunteers. Several students from previous field schools have been assisting Victor with field investigations and outreach events.

Graham McKay moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 PM. Dan Sampson seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director