

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Abdal-Khabir (Designee of James McGinn, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Michael Driscoll (Designee of Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Graham McKay (Marine Archaeologist)
Jonathon Patton (Designee of Brona Simon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
John Warner (State Archivist)
Nadia Waski (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Murad (Dive Community Representative)
Dan Sampson (Designee of Bruce Carlisle, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
Vacant (Dive Community Representative)

PROCEEDINGS:

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

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of 28 September 2017

Vic M asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the informal public meeting held on 28 September 2017. There were no comments or corrections.

Anthony Abdal-Khabir moved to accept the minutes of the public meeting held on 28 September 2017. John Warner seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Elections of Board Officers

Vic M stated that the Board annually elects its two officers, Director and Deputy Director. Victor reminded the Board that it could nominate whoever it would like to serve as Director and Deputy Director. He noted that the Board's past practice was to nominate its staff to facilitate administration. Vic M noted there was no Board staff to fill the position of Deputy Director. He did not believe backfill of the Board's other staff position, vacant since 2008, would happen in the foreseeable future. For 2017, Victor Mastone served as Director and Board member Anthony Abdal-Khabir served as Deputy Director. Vic M asked the Board members for nominations and noted that Anthony Abdal-Khabir was willing to serve another term as Deputy Director.

Graham McKay nominated Victor Mastone for the position of Director. Michael Driscoll seconded the nomination.

Michael Driscoll nominated Anthony Abdal-Khabir for the position of Deputy Director. Graham McKay seconded the nomination.

Michael Driscoll moved to elect Victor Mastone as Director and Anthony Abdal-Khabir as Deputy Director of the Board for 2018. Graham McKay seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

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B. Schedule of Board Meetings for 2018

Vic M proposed a continuation of the bi-monthly schedule of regular public meetings in 2018. In addition, he asked the Board to consider not scheduling meetings in June, July, and August, as it is difficult achieving a quorum in the summer months. He noted that this would not preclude the Board from holding additional public meetings if there were a need. Vic M proposed scheduling meetings in 2018 for January 25, March 29, May 31, September 27, and November 29. He noted he would still reserve meeting space for the last Thursday of February, April, June, July, August, and October.

Graham McKay moved to adopt the dates of January 25, March 29, May 31, September 27, and November 29 as the Board's schedule of public meetings for 2018. John Warner seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

C. Foreshore Forum 2017

Vic M reported that he participated in the Foreshore Forum 2017 in London, UK, on October 29. It was a joint conference of the Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) and the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITIZAN). Both are community based programs for recording and monitoring intertidal and riverine archaeological sites. It was a good mix of professional and avocational papers. Vic M found it helpful for the implementation of the Board's SHIPS initiative, citizen-scientist and field school programs. He stated he used personal funds and vacation leave to participate in this conference

D. Marcie Bilinski

Vic M reminded the Board that Marcie Bilinski has announced that our September 28th meeting would be her last meeting as a Board member. He noted that Marcie had served on the Board as the appointed representative of the organized dive community from May 30, 2002 to September 28, 2017. Vic M recalled Marcie's willingness to provide assist in field operations, offer use her personal boat if needed, dive any site and every exempted site, and provide advice to the Board's permittees.

Michael Driscoll moved to adopt the following resolution:

It is resolved by the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Marcie Bilinski for her over 15 years of service to the Board and to the Commonwealth through her volunteer service. Since 2002, Marcie's continuous participation tin Board meetings and with the Board's outreach events enhanced the Board's ability to engage the public as well as providing invaluable guidance to the Board and permittees, assisting the Board in carry out its mission.

Anthony Abdal-Khabir seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So resolved.

Graham asked if they were seeking a replacement for Marcie. Vic M said he was still awaiting receipt of Marcie's formal resignation letter to initiate the process. He noted the Board's statute requires the replacement would have to be certified diver nominated by the organized dive community, such as by the Bay State Council of Dive Clubs, or an individual dive club or other similar organization in Massachusetts.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vic M noted that Michael Driscoll's program was now relocated to the DCR's office at the opposite end of the floor that houses the Board.

There were no Board member reports.

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4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. West Branch – Peabody Institute Library

Vic M reported that he gave a lecture at the West Branch Library in Peabody on Tuesday, October 10. The title is “*Drift Wood, Stone Circles, Three Canoes, a Lost Lighthouse, and a Piano: Stories of Collaboration and Public Engagement.*” This lecture was the part of the Board’s participation in Massachusetts Archaeology Month (October).

B. New England Heritage Education Summit

Vic M reported that he participated in New England Heritage Education Summit on Friday, October 13. This regional event was sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America and held at the Museum of Science in Boston. It was an attempt to re-invigorate collaboration in heritage education.

C. Archaeology Month 2017 / AIA-MOS Archaeology Fair

Vic M reported that as part of Massachusetts Archaeology Month the Board participated in the Archaeological Institute of America/Museum of Science Archaeology Fair on Saturday, October 14th. He said they used the 3D mock shipwreck and writing underwater as their hands-on maritime archaeology activity. He noted that Dr. Calvin Mires of Bridgewater State University and SEAMAHP, Ana Opishinski of University of Massachusetts-Boston, and Sharon Mastone assisted with the program. While he did not have the count, it was a heavy volume visitor day at the museum.

D. Bay State Council of Divers Meeting

Vic M reported he would be participating in the next meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers (BSC) on the night of 6 December 2017. It will be at the South Shore Neptunes Club House in Quincy. The anticipated agenda includes results of Annual (September) Treasure Hunt and Club Picnic event, public access issue, and preparation for upcoming Boston Sea Rovers conference.

E. Essex Heritage Regional Education Forum

Vic M reported he will participate in the Essex Heritage Regional Education sponsored by Essex County National Heritage Area. It will be held at the House of Seven Gables in Salem on Friday, 14 December 2017. Graham McKay said he would also be participating in the forum.

F. Society for Historical Archaeology’s Annual Conference

Vic M reported that he would be attending the Annual Conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology in New Orleans, LA, on 3 – 7 January 2018. Victor noted that he and Susan Langley of the Maryland Historical Trust have organized the Annual Government Maritime Managers’ Forum representing state, federal, and foreign government programs. This year’s forum is entitled *Government Maritime Managers’ Forum XXVI: The man who has experienced shipwreck shudders even at a calm sea*. He will also be presented a paper jointly with Dr. Calvin Mires entitled: *Shifting Sands: Evolving Educational Programming to Support Maritime Archaeological Research in Massachusetts*. He will also be participating in the annual meeting of the SHA UNESCO Committee. At this time, Vic was not sure if he would be receiving any agency support for this work-related travel.

G. Southeastern Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society

Vic M reported he will be giving a presentation to the Southeastern Chapter of Massachusetts Archaeological Society at the Robbins Museum in Middleborough on the night of Wednesday, 18 January 2018. The topic will be the dugout canoes in Lake Qunsigamond. It is open to the public.

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H. Salem State University Explorers Life Long Learning Institute

Vic M reported he will be giving two presentations to the Salem State University Explorers Life Long Learning Institute on Friday, March 23, 2018. The Institute is located at 12 Federal Street in Salem. The lectures are entitled “*Hidden History: Underwater Archaeology in Massachusetts*” and “*Nature and Maritime Archaeology: Revealing Massachusetts’ Hidden History*”.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. William Bradbury

Vic M reported that William Bradbury had submitted an incomplete permit renewal application. While he submitted a completed permit renewal application form and fee, he failed to include his Annual Report as required under the Board’s Regulations. Mr. Bradbury was not in attendance. Vic M believed that Mr. Bradbury remains hopeful to enter into an arrangement with UMass-Amherst. He recommended the Board consider granting an extension.

Anthony asked how often this had happened. Vic M said that last year [2016] was the first time his happened. It was Vic M’s recollection that past submissions were received early in the renewal process. He speculated that last year Mr. Bradbury thought UMass would do this for him and did not, and he seemed not realize he as the permittee still had to this. This is the impression Vic M got from this year’s voicemail message from Mr. Bradbury which he unfortunately did not transcribe.

Anthony asked if Vic M thought Mr. Bradbury would respond to this extension. Vic M believed he would noting that last year he sent Mr. Bradbury copies of the previous year’s submission. He said he intended to send Mr. Bradbury copies of his previous annual reports as guidance. It is a very simple task for him to complete.

Michael Driscoll moved to extend the expiration of Reconnaissance Permit No. 87-002 held by Mr. William Bradbury for his Gloucester (Annisquam) site with all standard conditions in effect until the next scheduled meeting of the Board on 25 January 2018. John Warner seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted

B. Joseph Dietlin

Vic M reported that Joseph Dietlin had submitted his Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board’s regulations. He noted the permittee had again submitted a very thorough renewal package. Mr. Dietlin was not in attendance to present application due to medical issues.

Vic M noted Mr. Dietlin sent an email informing the Board of his lab facility local location. He noted the Board had also received confirmation that Scott Herber would continue as Project Conservator and Bob Cembrola as Project Archaeologist. They would be continuing work under the previously approved works plan. There was no further discussion.

Graham McKay moved to renew the Excavation Permit (00-003) held by Joseph K. Dietlin for his Salem site with all standard conditions in effect under the approved work plan, and the further condition that the permittee submit, for approval by Board staff, a detailed plan for the selection, transportation, and conservation of any objects intended to leave the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, prior to undertaking such action. Anthony Abdal-Khabir seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

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C. William Dupsha

Vic M reported that Mr. William Dupsha had informed the Board he did not intend to renew his permit. Mr. Dupsha stated that personal issues had taken much of his time over this past year. There was no further discussion.

D. Kenneth J. Medeiros

Vic M reported the Kenneth Medeiros had submitted a complete Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. This permit area is off Duxbury Beach adjacent to where he found historic buttons in 1992. Victor reminded the Board that Mr. Medeiros was granted an Isolated Find permit for the buttons in 2004. He subsequently located anomalies off shore of that area. Mr. Medeiros was not present.

Vic M believed Mr. Medeiros was planning to conduct additional investigation on those anomalies. Graham asked if he had undertaken much investigation. Vic M believed the delays revolved around getting a vessel and a magnetometer. There was no further discussion.

Graham McKay moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (07-003) held by Kenneth J. Medeiros for his Duxbury site with all standard conditions in effect. John Warner seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

E. David S. Robinson and Associates

Vic M reported that David S. Robinson and Associates, Inc., had requested a modification to their special use permit, No. 14-001. This permit is for Supplemental Marine Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey related to the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Remediation Project. This modification is necessary to expand the permit area to encompass the areas in the Lower Harbor, south of the route I-195 Bridge, where unanticipated shipwreck finds were encountered. The enlarged permit area is detailed on the figure accompanying the application (Figure X). Vic M had he heard from USEPA and USACE regarding the unanticipated encountering of wooden vessel remains in this new dredge area. He described the finds to the Board. He reminded that Board this permit was for on-going archaeological monitoring and recording project associated with the harbor clean-up; there was no change in the scope of work methodology. He provisionally approved this area modification on 17 October 2017.

Graham asked if the Board was essentially approving only making the permit area larger and not the recovery. Vic M described the pre-dredge clearance process, and the recovery and recordation process. He further stated the recovery protocol had been previously approved. John asked clarification of the location numbers provided in the application. Vic M said those were state plain coordinate system generally used by engineers; it is standardized and convertible to latitude and longitude. He noted that archaeologists tend to use UTM's and latitude and longitude to record site locations.

Jonathon Patton moved to grant modification to Special Use Permit No. 14-001 issued to David S. Robinson and Associates, Inc., in order to expand the permit area, as detailed Figure X accompanying the request to allow for on-going archaeological monitoring and recording with all standard and special conditions remaining in effect. Michael Driscoll seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

F. North Atlantic Dive Expeditions

Jonathan asked about the report the Board had received from North Atlantic Dive Expeditions. Vic M said this was an update of their field activities, noting much of their field time was aborted due to weather conditions. They are still working on vessel identity. They planned to continue the project as

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an Explorers Club Flag Project. He noted it was great that they wanted to continue researching this shipwreck.

G. Nipmuc Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Anthony asked if the Nipmuc Nation dugout canoe project has any upcoming work planned. Vic M stated he had a potential intern who lives in Worcester interested in doing research in support of that project. He needs to touch base with Cheryl Stedtler about research collaboration and tasks. He also noted he had been discussing with some other individuals the possibility of conducting an ROV survey. Given the Board's limited resources, it is dependent upon free vessel and equipment availability. This did not come together for summer and the same was true for this fall. He said it now looks like perhaps this winter with the possibility of working when the lake is iced over. Anthony noted there was a lot of fishing going on and Worcester Fire does its ice training on the lake. He believed a hole can be opened and closed within 24 hours. Vic M noted he and Dr. Calvin Mires had been working with another party about doing this work and bringing Cheryl and her project archaeologist David Robinson back out there when they undertake the work.

Graham asked they were planning an ice dive. Vic M said not at this time. John asked how deep the lake was. Vic M noted it reached 90 feet in places, but their work was around 30 feet. He noted the problem was in disturbing the organic layer on the lake's bottom. It creates significant turbidity. Anthony noted winter was a better season for reduced turbidity. If we decided a dive would be appropriate, there are well-trained ice divers, such as David Robinson.

Graham asked if the lake were a dammed water body. Vic M said yes. Anthony noted it was dammed on the southern end and was seasonally lowered, mostly for vegetation control. There are two other bodies of water connected to it. Michael Driscoll said they dropped the level about 3 feet.

Graham then asked why the canoes were at their current depth. Vic M speculated it was a combination of lake damming, perhaps earlier dams prior to current dams, and slumping. There was a possibility that two of the canoes slid down the slope to their current resting place.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Graham McKay moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 PM. Anthony Abdal-Khabir seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director