

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – January 29, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Boeri (Gubernatorial Appointee, Dive Community Representative [at large])
Jack Chapin* (Designee of John Monaghan III, Colonel/Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Justin Malcolm* (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Jonathan Patton* (Designee of Gregory Robbins, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Daniel Sampson* (Designee of Alison Brizius, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
John Warner* (State Archivist)
(*present via remote access)

David Robinson, Director (Staff for the Board)
Patrice Bordonaro, CZM Staff Assistant/Meeting Co-Host

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Designee of Brona Simon (Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission)
Vincent Malkoski (Gubernatorial Appointee, Dive Community Representative [organization])
Graham McKay (Gubernatorial Appointee, Marine Archaeologist [at-large])

PROCEEDINGS:

This hybrid-format (i.e., in-person and remote-access) public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (the Board or BUAR) was convened by its Director, David Robinson (Dave R), at 12:32 PM on January 29, 2026 in the 9th floor conference room #9128 at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, in Boston, with a quorum of six (6) current members of the Board in attendance (5 remotely and 1 [Boeri] in-person), as confirmed by a roll-call.

The purpose of this public meeting was to conduct the BUAR's business that required the involvement of the full Board.

Items on the agenda included:

- approval of the December 4, 2025 Board meeting's minutes
- the Director's report
- Board Member reports
- a summary of the Board's Public Engagement Activities
- Old Business, and
- New Business.

Dave R explained that this meeting's hybrid format conforms with the Commonwealth's temporary provisions (now effective through June 30, 2027) pertaining to the Open Meeting Law that were signed by Governor Healey on March 28, 2025. These temporary provisions allow public bodies to continue holding their meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. Board votes taken during this hybrid-format meeting were conducted through a roll-call, as required by MGL c. 30A, ss. 18-25.

Meeting ground-rules were reviewed and CZM Staff Assistant/Meeting Co-Host, Patrice Bordonaro, Board members (and their substitutes), permittees, prospective permittees, and members of the public were all welcomed to the meeting by Dave R.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of the December 4, 2025 Meeting of the Board

Dave R asked if the Board had any comments or corrections to the draft minutes of the Board's December 4, 2025 public meeting. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Jack Chapin moved to accept the minutes of the Board's December 4, 2025 public meeting. Daniel Sampson seconded. Four (4) in favor, with two (2) abstentions (Boeri and Warner did not attend BUAR's December 4, 2025 meeting), by a roll-call vote. So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Board Membership Update

Dave R noted that the Board has three gubernatorially-appointed members that each commit to serving 3-year terms. These Board positions are:

- Marine Archaeologist (at large), held by Graham McKay since 2012;
- Diving Community Representative 1 (affiliated with and nominated by an established MA Dive Club), held by Vincent Malkoski since March 2021; and
- Diving Community Representative 2 (at large), which had been vacant from December 2024 until January 2025.

Dave R reported that Messrs. McKay and Malkoski's applications for reappointment to extend their service to the Board for another three years were approved by the Governor, and that the formerly vacant Diving Community Representative 2 (at large) seat on the board had been filled with the gubernatorial appointment of long-time MA diver and retired CZM staff member, Robert Boeri. Dave R and the Board welcomed Mr. Boeri to the BUAR. Mr. Boeri introduced himself to the Board, expressed his excitement for being its newest member, and added that he looked forward to working with fellow Board members on BUAR business during his term.

*****Change in the Order of Business**

Due to the full agenda for the meeting, Dave R as Chair changed the order of business to move directly to the agenda's Old Business and New Business action items. These agenda items were then followed by the remainder of the Director's Report, Board Member Reports, and a summary of the Board's Public Engagement Activities since its December 4, 2025 meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) – Special Use Permit (24-005), Cusky Pond Dam Removal Project New Braintree

AHS's Special Use Permit 24-005 to conduct archaeological monitoring/recordation and walkover (reconnaissance) survey of drawn-down/dewatered (formerly submerged lands) work areas of the Cusky Pond Dam Removal Project in New Braintree was up for renewal after being extended twice by the Board. AHS submitted a complete renewal application and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. AHS's Principle, Meg Harper, was in attendance to represent this permit. Ms. Harper reported

that she anticipated the project being done and reporting submitted to BUAR in the Summer-Fall of 2026. There was no further discussion.

Jonathan Patton moved to grant renewal of AHS's Special Use Permit (24-005) to conduct archaeological monitoring/recordation and walkover (reconnaissance) survey of drawn-down/dewatered (formerly submerged lands) work areas of the Cusky Pond Dam Removal Project, in New Braintree, with all standard and special conditions in effect. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its new expiration date set as January 29, 2027. Justin Malcolm seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

B. AHS – Special Use Permit (24-006), Quaboag Wildlife Management Area at Salmon Brook, Brookfield

AHS's Special Use Permit 24-006 to conduct archaeological monitoring/recordation and walkover (reconnaissance) survey of drawn-down/dewatered (formerly submerged lands) work areas of the Quaboag Wildlife Management Area at Salmon Brook Project, in Brookfield, was up for renewal, after being extended twice by the Board. AHS submitted a complete renewal application and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. AHS's Principle, Meg Harper, was in attendance to represent this permit. Ms. Harper reported that she anticipated the project being done and reporting submitted to BUAR in the Summer-Fall of 2026. There was no further discussion.

Jack Chapin moved to grant renewal of AHS's Special Use Permit (24-006) to conduct archaeological monitoring/recordation and walkover (reconnaissance) survey of drawn-down/dewatered (formerly submerged lands) work areas of the Quaboag Wildlife Management Area at Salmon Brook Project, in Brookfield, with all standard and special conditions in effect. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its new expiration date set as January 29, 2027. Jonathan Patton seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

C. William Gallagher, Charles Zarba, Robert Foley, and Douglas Eaton – Reconnaissance Permit (22-008), Boston

William Gallagher, Charles Zarba, Robert Foley, and Douglas Eaton's Reconnaissance Permit (22-008) for their Boston site was up for renewal after being extended once by the Board. Messrs. Zarba and Gallagher had submitted a complete renewal application, annual report, and renewal fee in accordance with the Board's regulations. Messrs. Gallagher and Zarba were in attendance remotely to represent this permit. Mr. Gallagher reported multiple equipment-related issues and set-backs had limited their work on-site in 2025, but that they were, nonetheless, making progress on the project. Mr. Gallagher reported that he had located a copy of builder's plans for *Magnifique* in the archives of the Marine Institute in Paris, France, and that he had also built an improved apparatus for photogrammetry that holds two Go-Pro cameras. Mr. Gallagher also reported that his boat would be operating from a different marina from which access to and from the ocean was not tidally-dependent. Mr. Zarba reported that the permit team was looking forward to and very enthused about the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in the coming year in specific areas of interest that the team had identified during previous years' field campaigns. Jonathan Patton noted that there had been leadership staff turnover at DCR's Boston Harbor marine operations and requested that the permit team provide them with advanced notice of any planned field activities. Dave R commented that he would work with Mr. Patton to facilitate coordinating communication between DCR and the Board's permittees. There was no further discussion.

Jonathan Patton moved to grant William Gallagher, Charles Zarba, Robert Foley, and Douglas Eaton renewal of their Reconnaissance Permit (22-008) for their Boston site with all standard conditions in effect, including that the permit team coordinate in advance all field activities with the Board's staff and DCR. The duration of the permit shall be one year, retroactive to the permit's original expiration date of December 5, 2025, with the permit's new expiration date set for December 5, 2026. Justin Malcolm seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

D. Gray & Pape, Inc. – Special Use Permit (21-006), New England Wind I OECC Project, State

Waters Portions of Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, Barnstable to Edgartown

Gray & Pape, Inc.'s Special Use Permit (21-006) for the New England Wind I OECC Project (State waters portions of Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, from Barnstable to Edgartown) was up for renewal after being extended once by the Board. Gray & Pape, Inc. submitted a complete renewal application and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Dr. Amanda Evans, Gray & Pape, Inc.'s Maritime Services Practice Leader and Principal Investigator for the permit, was in attendance to represent this permit. Dr. Evans reported that the project's underwater archeological fieldwork and its associated reporting were complete, and that the project will move forward once the overall permitting process is completed. There was no further discussion.

Robert Boeri moved to grant Gray & Pape, Inc. renewal of their Special Use Permit (21-006) for their New England Wind I OECC Project area located in the State waters portions of Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, between Barnstable and Edgartown, with all standard conditions in effect, for the duration of one year from the date of issuance with its new expiration date set as January 29, 2027. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

E. SEARCH, Inc. – Special Use Permit (23-002), Atlantic Ocean – Gloucester

SEARCH, Inc.'s Special Use Permit (23-002) for the marine archaeological assessment of the Massachusetts state waters of the Atlantic Ocean off Gloucester portion of the Neptune Deepwater Port & Submarine Pipeline Decommissioning project area was up for renewal. SEARCH, Inc.'s Principal Investigator for the project, Benjamin Wells, submitted to the Board's staff a request via cell-phone text and email for the permit's expiration to be extended until the Board's next regularly-scheduled public meeting. The Board has previously granted up to two extensions of a permit's expiration date within a given permit year. This would be this permit's first extension. Mr. Wells was in attendance to represent this permit. Mr. Wells reported that the underwater archaeological survey and report were completed, and that SEARCH Inc. was seeking to extend the permit, and planned to apply for permit renewal at the Board's next meeting, so that the permit would be in place to address any unanticipated discoveries that may occur during the port and pipeline's decommissioning. Commencement of this decommissioning work has not yet been scheduled. There was no further discussion.

Daniel Sampson moved to grant SEARCH, Inc. an extension of its Special Use Permit (23-002) for the marine archaeological assessment of the Massachusetts state waters of the Atlantic Ocean off Gloucester portion of the Neptune Deepwater Port & Submarine Pipeline Decommissioning project area, with all standard and special conditions in effect, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PSUP 25-003), Bowen's Pond Dam Removal and Osgood Brook Restoration Project, Construction Phase – Archaeological Monitoring, Wendell

On December 9, 2025, the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) submitted a complete Special Use Permit application to the Board to conduct construction-phase archaeological monitoring within the Bowen's Pond Dam Removal and Osgood Brook Restoration Project area in Wendell. This archaeological monitoring will be conducted during the construction contractor's excavations, as detailed in the technical proposal and maps accompanying PAL's application for the project area. On December 18, 2025, a letter was sent to PAL confirming that the Board's Director had reviewed and approved their application and had issued PAL Provisional Special Use Permit (25-003). Ms. Cherau from PAL was in attendance to represent this permit. Ms. Cherau reported that while PAL's monitoring fieldwork had commenced, heavy snow and ice this winter had made fieldwork challenging. Ms. Cherau also reported that project excavation had revealed a stone masonry structure in a similar orientation as the existing early twentieth-century dam that is being removed, and that it may be an earlier dam. Dave R requested PAL provide BUAR with photographs of the structure. There was no further discussion.

Robert Boeri moved to formerly approve PAL's Provisional Special Use Permit (25-003) to conduct construction-phase archaeological monitoring within the Bowen's Pond Dam Removal and Osgood Brook Restoration Project area in Wendell, as described in their application, with all the standard and special conditions in effect. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its expiration date set as January 29, 2027. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

*****Change in the Order of Business**

Dave R, as Chair, changed the order of business, again, and moved back to the Director's Report, followed by the Board Member Reports, and a summary of the Board's Public Engagement Activities since its September 25, 2025 meeting.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

B. Fieldwork

- Conomo Point Shipwreck Site Inspection/Condition Monitoring, Essex

Dave R reported that on February 4, 2026, the Board's staff will be conducting moon-low, low-tide site inspection/condition monitoring fieldwork at the Conomo Point shipwreck site, located in the intertidal zone of the Essex River in Essex. This fieldwork is part of BUAR's ongoing monitoring and adaptive management program for the site. The wreck's condition, any newly exposed hull elements, and changes to the surrounding environment will be documented as part of the inspection. Board members interested in joining Dave R in the field are welcome and should contact him to coordinate schedule and logistics.

C. Meetings

- On December 16, 2025, the Board's staff met with staff and leadership from MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to discuss potential archaeological sensitivity of proposed Pilot Inshore Scalloping Open Areas in state waters of MA Bay.
- On January 23, 2026, the Board's staff met with Maura O'Gara, Engagement Manager for The Trustees of Reservations-Southeast Region and a volunteer for the City of Quincy's Department of Natural Resources' "Quincy's Environmental Treasures" guided educational walks program. The City of Quincy's Director of Historic and Heritage Resources, Robert Damon, also attended the meeting. BUAR staff is looking forward to expanding the focus of its public engagement and educational programming to include more featuring MA's South Shore and Islands regions.
- On January 28, 2026, the Board's staff met via remote-access with Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, Associate Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) at the University of West Florida (UWF), Pensacola, FL, to discuss the final language of the Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program's (STAMP) agreement document formalizing a STAMP-focused partnership between BUAR and FPAN. EEA Legal's final draft of the agreement document has been provided to FPA/UWF legal for their review and final approval. Once this step is complete, BUAR will be able to execute the agreement and implement the STAMP program statewide along the MA coast as part of its adaptive management strategy for addressing ongoing environmental threats to coastal cultural resources, developed during the recently-completed BUAR-CZM Project of Special Merit.
- On February 2, 2026, the Board's staff will attend a joint-meeting of the MA Ocean Advisory Commission and MA Ocean Science Advisory Council, convened by CZM, to begin the latest official 5-year review and revision of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Dan Sampson reported (with input from Dave R) on the public-facing geo-narrative that was prepared as a deliverable for BUAR and CZM's recently-completed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration- (NOAA) funded Project of Special Merit (PSM), entitled: "Assessing the Vulnerability of Massachusetts Coastal Cultural Resources to Coastal Hazards." This project was completed by a project team that included Dave R and Mr. Sampson as co-principal investigators, CZM GIS Specialist, Brooke Hodge, and BUAR 2025 Summer Intern and MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning graduate student, Hannah Aronson. Mr. Sampson shared his screen and presented to the Board the contents of the geo-narrative's eight sections, which include: Project Background; Examples of Impacted Resources; Methods; Project Results; Recommendations; an interactive Map-Viewer; and a link to the project's technical report and maps. Dave R acknowledged the important contributions of the PSM's Advisory Committee, which included BUAR Board members, Justin Malcolm (MHC) and Jonathan Patton (DCR), and said that he anticipated the geo-narrative being released to the public via CZM's and BUAR's websites sometime in late Spring-early Summer 2026. Board members Jack Chapin and Robert Boeri complimented Mr. Sampson and Dave R on the work that was done on, and the results of, the PSM.

4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Hull Life Saving Museum, Hull

On Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 2:00 pm, the Board's staff will give a public presentation at the Hull Life Saving Museum in Hull. The presentation will provide a brief introduction to BUAR and summarize the recently completed BUAR//CZM Project of Special Merit. Registration with the Hull Life Saving Museum is required and there is a \$10 admission fee. For more information and to register, go to: <https://hulllifesavingmuseum.org/events-programs/>.

B. New Bedford Science Café, New Bedford

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm, the Board's staff will give a free public presentation and then answer questions as part of the New Bedford Science Café's public engagement series at the Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford. For more information, go to: <https://newbedfordsciencecafe.weebly.com/>.

Dave R thanked his CZM meeting co-host, the Board, permittees, and members of the public who attended the meeting, and reminded everyone that the next regularly-scheduled public meeting of the Board will be at **12:30 pm** on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**. This next meeting will also be held in a hybrid format and accessible both remotely and as an in-person meeting in CZM/BUAR's offices on the 9th floor at 100 Cambridge Street in Boston. Instructions for accessing the meeting remotely or in-person will be posted prior to the meeting on the Board's Public Meetings Information webpage (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/buar-public-meeting-information>). Permittees and interested members of the public were encouraged to monitor the BUAR webpage's Public Meetings Information section for other updates, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

Daniel Sampson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 PM. Robert Boeri seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,
David S. Robinson
Director