

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Chapin* (Designee of Shaun Santos, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Michael Driscoll* (Outgoing Designee of Gregory Robbins, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Jonathan Patton* (Incoming Designee of Gregory Robbins, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Justin Malcoln (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Mark McClanan* (Gubernatorial Appointee, Dive Community Representative [at-large])
Daniel Sampson* (Designee of Tyler Soleau, Acting Director of Coastal Zone Management)
John Warner* (State Archivist)
(*present via remote access)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

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), with the assistance of co-host and Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Administrative Assistant, Patrice Bordonaro, at 12:31 PM on March 28, 2024 in the 9th floor large conference room at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, in Boston, with a quorum of six (6) current members of the Board in attendance in person and remotely, as confirmed by a roll-call.

The purpose of this regularly-scheduled 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 January 25, 2024 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 conformed with the Commonwealth's temporary provisions (effective through March 31, 2025) pertaining to the Open Meeting Law that were signed by Governor Healey on March 29, 2023. This temporary provision allows 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 by Dave R, and Board members, the meeting's co-host, prospective permittees, and members of the public were all welcomed to the meeting.

Before moving onto the Board's business, Dave R. acknowledged and thanked outgoing and long-time Board member, Michael Driscoll, for his nearly decade-long service to the BUAR as the Designee for the Director of the DCR Division of Waterways. Mr. Driscoll is being replaced by another former long-time Board member, DCR Archaeologist, Jonathan Patton, who had previously served on the Board for 14 years as one of Brona Simon's (MHC) designees, prior to moving to his new position with DCR. This transition was

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

executed by DCR Division of Waterways Director, Gregory Robbins. Dave R wished Mr. Driscoll all the best in his continued work with DCR Waterways and welcomed Mr. Patton back to the Board.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of the January 25, 2024 Meeting of the Board

Dave R asked if the Board had any comments or corrections to the draft minutes of the Board's January 25, 2024 public meeting. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Justin Malcolm moved to accept the minutes of the Board's January 25, 2024 public meeting. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

*****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 January 25, 2024 meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (SUP 19-005) – Marston Mills in Barnstable

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.'s (AHS's) Special Use Permit (19-005) for the Mill Pond Improvements project area at Marston Mills in Barnstable was up for renewal. At the request of AHS's Principal, Meg Harper, the Board had granted a second and final extension of the permit's expiration date at its last meeting to March 28, 2024. AHS submitted a complete renewal application and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Ms. Harper was in attendance via remote access to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

John Warner moved to grant AHS renewal of their Special Use Permit (19-005) for the Mill Pond Improvements project area at Marston Mills in Barnstable, with all standard and special conditions in effect, including the condition that AHS submit its research design and methodology to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review for any additional fieldwork that may be completed under this permit. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance, with its new expiration date set as March 28, 2025. Dan Sampson seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

B. Bassing Cove Maritime Association (EXC Permit 91-001) – Scituate

On March 30, 2023, the Bassing Cove Maritime Association's (BCMA) informed the Board's staff that after holding Excavation Permit (91-001) for their *Forest Queen* site in Scituate and conducting fieldwork and educational outreach on the site for 32 years, they wished to close out the project. The Board had granted BCMA two extensions of its permit expiration date to provide adequate time to coordinate with BUAR and complete the various requisite elements of the project's close-out. With no extensions remaining, the BCMA elected to not renew its permit and the permit expired naturally on September 28, 2023.

Since that time, the BCMA has coordinated the completion of its reporting obligations with the Board's staff, and has submitted an annual report for the 2022-2023 permit year, a project completion report, and an inventory of recovered artifacts, in compliance with the Board's regulations at 312 CMR 2.09(3)(b) and (c). Completion of a disposition plan for recovered resources within a year of the project's completion, prepared in consultation with the Board, is also required by Board regulations at 312 CMR 2.13. The BCMA submitted to the Board a letter recommending the artifacts recovered under their permit be curated by the Scituate Irish Mossing Museum, where they were conserved by the BCMA and are currently on display for the public's benefit. The Board's staff considers the Scituate Irish Mossing Museum to be an appropriate curatorial facility/museum for the collection and that developing a long-term loan agreement with the Irish

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

Mossing Museum, with the assistance of EEA's legal counsel, and in coordination with the BCMA, is a logical next step in the artifact disposition process. BCMA's Debra Jackson, Hank Lynch, and Tom Mulloy were not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Dan Sampson moved to: 1) accept BCMA's annual report for their 2022-2023 research activities, their project completion report, and their artifact inventory, as written; 2) consider the BCMA's obligations and responsibilities under this permit fulfilled in compliance with BUAR regulations; and 3) to approve and direct the Board's staff to consult with the EEA's legal counsel, and coordinate with the BCMA and the Scituate Irish Mossing Museum, to prepare a final disposition plan and long-term loan agreement document for the recovered *Forest Queen* site artifacts. Justin Malcolm seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

C. William Gallagher, Charles Zarba, Robert Foley, and Douglas Eaton (REC 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. At the request of Mr. Gallagher, the Board had granted a second and final extension of this permit's expiration date at its last meeting to March 28, 2024. Messrs. Gallagher, Zarba, Foley, and Eaton submitted a complete renewal application, annual report, and renewal fee payment, in accordance with the Board's regulations. Messrs. Gallagher and Zarba were in attendance in-person and Mr. Eaton was in attendance via remote access to represent this permit.

Messrs. Gallagher and Zarba reported having examined and mapped an approximately 125 to 300 ft area of seabed within their permit area. This area was found to contain pockets of low-relief debris and concretions that they subjected to metal-detector survey and limited surface-collection. Small portable artifacts were recovered. These artifacts consisted of: 2 ceramic sherds; 15 cupreous sheathing nails; 2 small lead sheathing fragments; and 1 (heavily-eroded) cupreous bolt fragment. Mr. Zarba reported that these artifacts were inventoried, labeled, cleaned, desalinated through multiple fresh-water rinses, air-dried, sorted, and transferred to plastic storage containers that are being kept in a secure, climate-controlled storage area. Messrs. Gallagher and Zarba brought the artifacts to the meeting to show to the Board. The artifacts appeared to be in a stable condition and associated with ship remains. Mr. Gallagher then described a theory he had developed, based on his analysis of historical descriptions of *Magnifique's* loss, as to why the vessel had run aground in clear, calm conditions, while under the guide of a local pilot. Based on his research, Mr. Gallagher concluded that the vessel had grounded not because of any errors on the part of the captain, crew or pilot, but rather because it was simply not possible for the vessel's course to be adjusted within the available time and distance to prevent its grounding. Dave R thanked Messrs. Gallagher, Zarba, Foley, and Eaton for their excellent work and the quality of the research, fieldwork, and reporting that they have done thus far on their BUAR-permitted project. There was no further discussion.

Jack Chapin moved to grant renewal to William Gallagher, Charles Zarba, Robert Foley, and Douglas Eaton of Reconnaissance Permit (22-008) for their Boston site, with all standard and special conditions in effect. The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance, retroactive to the permit's original expiration date, with its new expiration set as December 5, 2024. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

D. Neil Good (REC 19-002) – Waquoit Bay, Falmouth and Mashpee

Neil Good's Reconnaissance Permit (19-002) for his Waquoit Bay site in Falmouth and Mashpee expired naturally on May 26, 2023, after Mr. Good was, unfortunately, unable to communicate with the Board to request an extension, or to submit an application for renewal. On March 21, 2024, Mr. Good submitted an annual report for the 2022-2023 permit year, in compliance with the Board's regulations at 312 CMR 2.09(3)(b). Board regulations at 312 CMR 2.09(3)(c) impose additional reporting obligations upon project completion (i.e., a project completion report and an inventory of collected artifacts). Completion of a disposition plan for recovered resources is also required by Board regulations at 312 CMR 2.13. The Board's staff was not aware of any reports of the collection of cultural resources under this permit by Mr. Good. As a result, the Board's staff does not anticipate any need for the Board or Mr. Good to have to act on resource disposition. Further, Mr. Good wished to continue his research in Waquoit Bay and had applied

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

for a new BUAR Reconnaissance Permit, so that he may do so. In light of these circumstances, and in the event that the Board votes to approve Mr. Good's new permit request to continue his work in Waquoit Bay, the Board's staff recommended that the project completion report requirement for the expired permit be folded into the new permit's project completion report requirement, since they will be the same project, just under a different permit number. Dave R noted that if, however, the Board voted to reject Mr. Good's request for a new permit, then the project completion report requirement for the expired permit would remain in effect and Mr. Good would be expected to comply with the Board's regulations for that permit. Mr. Good was in attendance via remote access to represent this permit. Mr. Good said that he was planning on continuing his research in Waquoit Bay, if the Board granted him a new permit to do so, that he was getting his boat ready for the coming season, and that he was looking at high-tech methods for locating the reported shipwreck in Waquoit Bay that he has reported on during previous Board meetings. There was no further discussion.

Jack chapin moved to: 1) accept Mr. Good's annual report for his 2022-2023 research activities completed under the naturally-expired Reconnaissance Permit (19-002) for his Waquoit Bay site; 2) approve folding the project completion report requirement for the expired permit into the project completion report requirement for the new permit; 3) consider Mr. Good's obligations and responsibilities under this permit fulfilled in compliance with BUAR regulations, provided that the new permit is approved by the Board; and 4) that if the new permit is not granted, then Mr. Good will be expected to comply with the Board's regulations and submit a project completion report for the expired Reconnaissance Permit 19-002. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

E. Raymond L. Hayes (REC 07-001) – Great Harbor, Woods Hole

Dr. Raymond L. Hayes's Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) for his Great Harbor site at Woods Hole was up for renewal. Dr. Hayes submitted a complete renewal application, fee payment, and annual report in accordance with the Board's regulations. In his renewal application, Dr. Hayes noted that Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution maritime archaeologist, Dr. Calvin Mires, would be joining his project team. Dr. Hayes was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Justin Malcolm moved to grant renewal of Raymond L. Hayes's Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) for the exploration and inspection of underwater archaeological resource(s) at his Great Harbor site in Woods Hole 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 set as March 28, 2025. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

F. PAL (SUP 21-001) – Monatiquot River Restoration, Armstrong and Ames Pond Dam Removals, Hancock and Plain Streets Project, Braintree

PAL's Special Use Permit (21-001) for the Construction Phase-Archaeological Monitoring and Walkover (Reconnaissance) Survey of the Monatiquot River Restoration, Armstrong and Ames Pond Dam Removals, Hancock and Plain Streets Project in Braintree was up for renewal. PAL Senior Archaeologist/Principal Investigator, Suzanne Cherau, submitted a written request on March 6, 2024 for an extension of the permit's expiration date until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on May 30, 2024. It has been the Board's practice to grant up to two extensions within a permit year. This would be the first extension of this permit this year. Suzanne Cherau was not attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Jack Chapin moved to extend the expiration date of PAL's Special Use Permit (21-001) for the Construction Phase-Archaeological Monitoring and Walkover (Reconnaissance) Survey of the Monatiquot River Restoration, Armstrong and Ames Pond Dam Removals, Hancock and Plain Streets Project in Braintree, with all the standard and special conditions in effect, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on May 30, 2024. Justin Malcolm seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

G. Victor Ricardo (REC Permit 94-001) – Salisbury

On November 30, 2023, Victor Ricardo's Reconnaissance Permit (94-001) was not renewed and expired naturally, following two extensions by the Board. Mr. Ricardo had informed the Board's staff during several phone conversations and emails prior to the permit's expiration that he was no longer able to dive and work in his permit area.

On January 23, 2024, the Board informed Mr. Ricardo in writing via an emailed letter of his permit's expiration and provided him with direction regarding his obligation to submit required reports and documentation to BUAR, in compliance with the Board's regulations at 312 CMR 2.09(3)(b) and (c). The Board's staff was not aware of any reports of collection of cultural materials under this permit by Mr. Ricardo, and, thus, the Board's staff does not anticipate the Board or Mr. Ricardo need to act on resource disposition (see 312 CMR 2.13).

On March 1, 2024, the Board received a letter from Mr. Ricardo, sent via email attachment from Mr. Ricardo's associate, Michael Margulis, acknowledging the natural expiration of his REC Permit 94-001 and surrendering the permit. The letter also requested that, and granted permission with no reservations for, the Board to transfer copies of all Mr. Ricardo's project-related files, documents, and research on file with the Board to Mr. Margulis to facilitate his efforts in applying for and obtaining a new reconnaissance permit for the same area in Salisbury where Mr. Ricardo had held Reconnaissance Permit (94-001).

The Board's staff will coordinate with Mr. Ricardo to assist him in preparing and submitting the requisite annual report for the 2022-2023 permit year and project completion report, in compliance with the Board's regulations at 312 CMR 2.09(3)(b) and (c). The Board's staff does not consider the outstanding status of these documents to be an obstacle to the Board considering and granting a new permit to Mr. Margulis for the same area that was once covered by Mr. Ricardo's permit, given that Mr. Ricardo's permit has expired. There was no further discussion.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Michael Margulis (Initial Permit [REC 24-001]) – Salisbury

On March 14, 2024, the Board's staff received a complete Reconnaissance Permit application for an area in Salisbury from new BUAR permit applicant, Michael Margulis. As noted during the agenda's Old Business, the Board had received a letter on March 1, 2024 from the previous permit-holder for the area, Victor Ricardo, authorizing the Board to transfer to Mr. Margulis copies of all of Mr. Ricardo's project-related files, documents, and research on file with the Board for his former Salisbury permit area to facilitate Mr. Margulis's application for a new reconnaissance permit. This transfer included the demonstrable proof that Mr. Ricardo provided for his application in 1994, which Mr. Margulis utilized for his application. Mr. Margulis was in attendance via remote access to represent this permit.

Dave R welcomed Mr. Margulis to the meeting and expressed on behalf of the Board its appreciation for his interest in continuing Mr. Ricardo's work in the area, thereby assisting the Board in preserving the underwater heritage of Massachusetts for the public's benefit. Mr. Margulis thanked Dave R and the Board for their assistance and consideration of his application, and stated that he looked forward to working with the Board on the project in the future, if granted a permit. There was no further discussion.

Justin Malcolm moved to grant Michael Margulis Reconnaissance Permit (24-001) for the exploration and inspection of underwater archaeological resource(s) at his Salisbury with all standard and special conditions in effect, including the same additional conditions that applied to Mr. Ricardo's permit. These additional conditions are:

- 1) all on-site activities will be coordinated with the DCR facility (Salisbury Beach State Reservation) staff;
- 2) DCR facility staff will determine when the permittee's on-site activities will take place;

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

- 3) the permittee will coordinate with the DCR Archaeologist, Office of Historic Resources;
- 4) that no excavation activities will take place under this permit; and
- 5) that no cultural materials will leave the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts without the prior written approval of the Board.

The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its expiration set as March 28, 2025. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

B. Neil Good (Initial Permit [REC 24-002]) – Waquoit Bay, Falmouth and Mashpee

On March 15, 2024, the Board received a complete Reconnaissance Permit application for the same area in Waquoit Bay in Falmouth and Mashpee where Mr. Good's Reconnaissance Permit 19-002 had previously covered. Mr. Good wished to continue his research in Waquoit Bay and applied for a new BUAR Reconnaissance Permit, so that he might do so. Dave R stated that Mr. Good's project-related files, documents, and research in his files with the Board for his previous permit would apply to the new permit he was requesting from the Board. Mr. Good was in attendance via remote access to represent this new permit application. Mr. Good restated that he was getting his boat ready for the season and was looking forward to being back in the field and on the water as soon as possible, provided the Board granted him a new permit. There was no further discussion.

Jack Chapin moved to grant Neil Good Reconnaissance Permit (24-002) for the exploration and inspection of underwater archaeological resource(s) in his Waquoit Bay area, in Falmouth and Mashpee, with all standard and special conditions in effect, including the additional conditions that applied to Mr. Good's previous permit, which require him to:

- 1) coordinate activities with the DCR Program Manager (Tonna-Marie Surgeon-Rogers) at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve;
- 2) maintain regular communication with the DCR State Parks Archaeologist (Jonathan Patton); and
- 3) maintain regular communications with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (David Weeden) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (Bettina Washington).

The duration of this permit shall be one year from the date of issuance with its expiration date set as March 28, 2025. Dan Sampson seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

***Change in the Order of Business: as Chair, Dave R again changed the order of business and moved back to the Director's Report, which was then followed by the Board Member Reports, and a summary of the Board's Public Engagement Activities since its January 25, 2024 meeting.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Fieldwork

- On January 30, 2024, the Board's staff and BUAR volunteers, Chris Wright and Julian Bokulich, joined DCR Archaeologist, Jonathan Patton, and DCR Communications Director, Ryan Hutton, in the field to photo-document and map the concrete remains of an historical building associated with an abandoned US Coast Guard Station located within DCR's Plum Island Reservation in Newburyport. The structure was built on the coastal upland adjacent to the beach; however, the building's remains are now situated in the beach's intertidal zone due to sea level rise and coastal erosion. Inspection of the building's location by the BUAR-DCR field team determined that this past winter's powerful storms had caused a significant shift in the beach's sands, which had deeply buried the structure, rendering impossible the planned examination and photo-documentation of

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

the building's remains. With the fieldwork opportunity cut short for BUAR's student volunteer, Mr. Bokulich, the Board's staff took him to Lowell's Boat Shop in Amesbury, where they received an outstanding guided tour from one of the shop's boatbuilders. Lowell's Boat Shop was established in 1793 and is the oldest continuously operating boat shop in the US, having produced more than a million dories since opening. It is cited as the "birthplace of the fishing dory" and is listed in National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark. BUAR Board member, Graham McKay, is Lowell's Boat Shop's Executive Director.

- On February 17, 2024, the Board's staff was notified by The Trustees of Reservations' (TTOR) Castle Hill/Crane Estate Property staff in Ipswich that a large section of the 1875 Essex-built schooner *Ada K. Damon*'s hull remains had uncovered on Steep Hill Beach. On February 20, 2024, the Board's staff traveled to Ipswich to co-lead a BUAR/TTOR "Shipwreck Scholars and Beach Detectives" public education program and inspected the newly re-exposed wreckage. The uncovered hull section appeared to be a portion of the inverted (i.e., bottom-up) starboard-side bottom of *Ada K. Damon*'s hull. The section measured 56 ft long and 11 ft wide and consisted of 20 partially-intact "double-sawn" frames with attached hull planking. Each half of the doubled-frames measured between 6-1/4 to 8 in sided (or wide). Eight strakes of outer hull planking were preserved in the exposed section of wreckage and measured between 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 in thick and 10-1/4 to 15-1/4 in wide. Planking was fastened to the frames with two square-in-section iron spikes at each end of the planks and round-in-section, 1-1/4 in diameter, treenails secured at each frame. The head of each treenail was wedged to make it wider to prevent it from pulling through the planks. None of *Ada K. Damon*'s ceiling planking (inner hull planking), observed previously when the schooner was intact and in other exposed sections of wreckage, was found to be preserved within this large section of wreckage. All of the frames and planking appeared to be made from white oak.
- On February 24, 2024, BUAR staff participated in and assisted with the field portion of the Diver-Archaeological Reconnaissance Cooperative's (DivARC) Winter 2024 Training Program. This training was conducted at the intertidal shipwreck site of the steamboat, *City of Taunton*, in Swansea. Dr. Dan Houlihan, DivARC's Program Director and Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at Regis College, and Dr. Calvin Mires, DivARC Instructor, WHOI Maritime Archaeologist, and co-founder of SEAMAHP, led the training in the archaeological documentation of the vessel's remains. Long-time members of the Board will recall that BUAR began working with DivARC and SEAMAHP during Victor Mastone's tenure as BUAR's Director. Unfortunately, this work had to be put on hold temporarily shortly after Dave R's tenure at BUAR began due to the COVID pandemic. Dave R noted that it is an honor and pleasure for BUAR to be resuming its collaboration with DivARC and working again with its leadership, its instructors, and its veteran/citizen scientist members. Dave R stated that he was particularly excited about the potentially important and active role DivARC's members may have in assisting BUAR and others document coastal underwater archaeological sites within the Commonwealth identified as vulnerable to sea level rise-related coastal erosion during the CZM/BUAR Project of Special Merit that is presently underway.
- On March 12, 2024, Russ Lambert, a Westport resident and former colleague of Dave R's on the BUAR-permitted New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site shipwreck archaeological recovery projects, alerted BUAR staff of a social media report of four wooden posts protruding out of the Cherry & Webb Beach in Westport. The posts were exposed after a series of winter storms had heavily eroded the beach. BUAR staff immediately contacted the person who had reported finding the posts, local resident and UMass-Dartmouth professor, Dr. Erin Bromage, to thank him for his discovery, to request he show the posts to BUAR, and to share with him the Board's webpage address, SHIPs form, and the Commonwealth's statutes and regulations protecting underwater archaeological resources. On March 20, 2024, BUAR staff, accompanied by Dr. Bromage, conducted a site inspection to examine the posts. During the inspection, Dr. Bromage noted that erosion over the past winter had been greater than in previous years with a significant loss of sand from the beach vertically and horizontally, with an estimated 100 horizontal ft of the beach's back-dune lost to erosion. At the time of BUAR's inspection, the tips of only two of the heavily sand-worn wooden posts were still visible extending above the surface of the beach. Scale photographs and a GPS position were recorded for the posts. Map research conducted by the Westport Historical

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

Society (WHS), reported on social media, indicated these posts were likely to have been associated with one of the three houses that had been on this section of the coast prior to being destroyed during the Hurricane of 1938. The Board's staff requested Dr. Bromage submit a SHIPs form for the find and plans to review historical maps of the area to confirm the WHS's theory about the origin of the posts.

B. Meetings

- On February 26, 2024, the Board's staff attended via remote access a meeting of CZM's Regional Coordinators (RCs) to discuss ways for BUAR to be more engaged with the CZM RCs' in their coastal management work. Having a closer working relationship with the CZM RCs will benefit both BUAR and CZM and their management of coastal resources. CZM's RCs are front-line managers of the Commonwealth's coastal zone and experts on a wide range of topic areas in their regions. Dave R presented an overview to the CZM RCs of what BUAR does, its staff and funding limitations, and noted the overlapping interests and responsibilities CZM shares with BUAR in the former's management of natural resources, which include underwater archaeological resources, historic districts and sites, as defined in Massachusetts statute (Ch.12 § 11D and Ch. 30 § 61).
- On March 15, 2024, the Board's staff met with CZM's South Coastal Regional Coordinator (RC), Sam Haines, at CZM and the Buzzard's Bay Estuary Program's shared offices in Mattapoisett to discuss ways in which the CZM South Coastal RC and BUAR can work more closely together, particularly on project review and field site inspections and monitoring.
- March 23, 2024, the Board was well-represented at the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition's Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference at UMass-Amherst when BUAR staff, and BUAR Board member and DCR Archaeologist, Jonathan Patton, each gave in-person presentations during a conference session entitled, "*Terrestrial and Marine Cultural Resource Management for Land Managers*." Dave R reported that the session was well-attended, the presentations were well-received, and the audience asked multiple excellent questions.

C. BUAR-CZM's NOAA Project of Special Merit Grant Update

Dave R reported that Dan Sampson, CZM GIS Specialist, Brook Hodge, and he continue to work on the NOAA-funded Project of Special Merit. On February 26, 2024, the BUAR-CZM project team met virtually with BUAR Board member, MHC GIS Specialist, and MHC's primary point-of-contact for the project, Justin Malcolm, to discuss BUAR-CZM's proposed approach for working with MHC's Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) data for the project. The project team seeks MHC's permission to extract select elements of MACRIS's data necessary to create draft maps identifying broad areas where different types of coastal cultural resources are most at risk from climate change-related coastal hazards, such as sea level rise and storm-related inundation and erosion, based primarily on a comparison of broadly-characterized coastal cultural resources site densities (i.e., exposure) with predicted coastal dynamism as characterized in the USGS's 2022 Coastal Change Model data. The initial meeting of the Project's Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 11, 2024. This committee is composed of members of federal, state, and municipal agencies, Tribal representatives, and non-profit organizations, who share BUAR and CZM's interest in and responsibilities for managing coastal resources, and who will serve as a sounding-board and advisors during the project. In addition to preparing for the initial Project Advisory Committee meeting, the project team is also working on a project progress report to NOAA and the project's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and hoped to be working with Mr. Malcolm soon to obtain the MACRIS data needed to advance the project. Dan Sampson added that the team would be sharing with the Board for its comments draft maps that it produces for the project and expects that the results will be interesting and informative.

D. Chelsea Creek Shipwreck Dendrochronological Dating Update

On February 8, 2024, BUAR staff completed its cleaning, sanding, photographic documentation, and preparation for shipping of the five wood samples obtained this past fall and winter by BUAR staff, and

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

Board member, Graham McKay, with the assistance of citizen scientist, Steve Kurkjian, from the floors (i.e., the lower-most portion of the ship's ribs or frames) and stern deadwood (i.e., filler pieces of wood at the narrow ends of a ship) of a shipwreck located near the upper end of Chelsea Creek, which were then sent to Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory's Tree Ring Lab in Palisades, NY for dendrochronological dating. On March 12, 2024, Mr. Kurkjian traveled to the Tree Ring Lab to meet with its Director, Dr. Ed Cook, who, along with his staff, conducted a preliminary examination of the samples during Mr. Kurkjian's visit. This examination resulted in a preliminary determination that all five of the samples appeared to be softwoods, possibly white pine, and that additional samples would likely be needed to date the wreck. The preliminary identification of the wood as possibly white pine was a surprising result, given that floor and deadwood timbers encountered in other wooden shipwrecks, and described in historical documents on ship construction, are usually made from hardwood species. The Board's staff is coordinating with Dr. Cook and Mr. Kurkjian to schedule a telecom to discuss possible next steps.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Board member, Dr. John Warner, reported that MA State Archives had a visit earlier in March (2024) from Meg Phillips, the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) External Affairs Liaison, to discuss the MA State Historical Records Advisory Board and MA State Archives' "Roving Archivist Program." Apparently, National Archives is having trouble filing the position of Director of State Programs for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the NARA. Dr. Warner's understanding of the problem is that instead of handling job applications and interviews internally some federal regulations require that it be done by an outside agency (possibly the General Services Administration?) Dr. Warner noted that it was nice to have the work of the MA State Historical Records Advisory Board validated by the NARA.

4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. TTOR/BUAR "Shipwreck Scholars/Beach Detectives Program"

On February 20, 2024, the Board's staff joined TTOR educational staff to conduct in-person the jointly-developed and -delivered TTOR/BUAR "Shipwreck Scholars/Beach Detectives Program" for children ages 5-12 on Steep Hill Beach at TTOR's Castle Hill/Crane Estate site in Ipswich. This is the fourth consecutive year that TTOR and BUAR have collaborated to offer this unique educational program to the public, which has provided opportunities for hundreds of children from the Commonwealth who participate in the program to learn about Massachusetts's rich maritime history and underwater archaeological resources, BUAR's, TTOR's, and their (i.e., the public's) role as the stewards of this shared heritage, and the *Ada K. Damon's* history as a tool of commerce transformed into an archaeological site and focus of teaching and learning. Based on the feedback received to date, the sustained interest from the public, and the site formation processes information that has been recorded, this collaborative effort between BUAR and TTOR to provide hands-on marine archaeology-focused public educational programming, integrated with resource monitoring and site management, has been a great success. The Board's staff is planning to meet with Valerie Perini, TTOR's Director of Educational Programs and Field Learning at the Castle Hill/Crane Estate TTOR property to reflect, evaluate, and update the program's content, as needed, for the coming year.

B. TTOR/BUAR CraneOutdoors Marine Archaeology & Sunset Hike

On March 9, 2024, the Board's staff presented an in-person talk on and co-led with TTOR educators an all-ages sunset hike to the *Ada K. Damon* shipwreck site on Steep Hill Beach at TTOR's Castle Hill/Crane Estate site in Ipswich. The talk and hike are one of TTOR's Crane Outdoors programs that are open to the public. TTOR charges a modest fee and registration via TTOR website is required for those wishing to attend.

C. Edgewood Yacht Club Presentation

On March 12, 2024, the Board's staff gave an invited in-person presentation to the membership of the Edgewood Yacht Club in Cranston, RI on the 1927-1928 sinking and recovery of the US submarine S-4 off

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – MARCH 28, 2024**

the coast of Provincetown. The talk was well-received and stimulated an hour-long Q&A conversation about underwater archaeology with the club's mariners.

D. United Divers of Central Massachusetts Dive Club Presentation

On March 21, 2024, the Board's staff gave an invited Zoom presentation to the membership of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts Dive Club on BUAR's current recent research and site monitoring projects that have been done in collaboration with TTOR, traditional master shipwright and captain, Harold Burnham, and local fishers, harbormasters, and citizen scientists, as well as BUAR Board members Graham McKay and Dan Sampson, and retired BUAR Director, Vic Mastone, on archaeological sites along the North Shore area in Essex, Gloucester, and Ipswich.

Dave R thanked the Board's 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, May 30, 2024**. This meeting will be held in a hybrid format and accessible as both an in-person meeting in CZM/BUAR's offices on the 9th floor at 100 Cambridge Street in Boston and via remote access. Instructions for logging into the remote access meeting 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 are encouraged to monitor the BUAR webpage's Public Meetings Information section for other updates, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

Justin Malcolm moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 PM. Dan Sampson seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Robinson
Director