

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 28 MARCH 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Abdal-Khabir, Deputy Director (Acting Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Michael Driscoll (Designee of Gregory Robbins, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
Dan Sampson (Designee of Lisa Engler, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
John Warner (State Archivist)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Graham McKay (Marine Archaeologist)
Gary Murad (Dive Community Representative)
Jonathan Patton (Designee of Brona Simon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
Nadia Waski (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Vacancy (Dive Community Representative)

PROCEEDINGS:

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone (Vic M) at 1:40 PM on 28 March 2019 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street in Boston.

Vic M noted there were only four Board members present. This did not constitute the requisite quorum of five Board members. He stated he would proceed with non-action items under an informal session in anticipation that additional Board members would be present to achieve a quorum.

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Bay State Council of Divers

Vic M stated the Bay State Council of Divers (BSC) met on February 27 at the South Shore Neptunes Club House in Quincy. The focus of the meeting was preparation for the Boston Sea Rovers Conference on March 9 -10 and public access issues. The next meeting will be held on May 29 and the focus will be the continuing beach access issue and the September Club Picnic and Treasure Hunt in Gloucester scheduled for September 15.

B. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research

Vic M reported that he was in Silver Spring, MD, from March 18-21 to participate as a peer review panelist for NOAA's Office of Ocean Explanation and Research's 2019 Grant Funding opportunity. The panel of about 9 people reviewed 31 proposals in the topics of deep ocean exploration, marine archaeology, and technological innovation. While he was not at liberty to discuss any of the proposals, he said he learned a great deal from the other scientists on the panel. Travel costs were paid by NOAA.

C. North American Society for Oceanic History

Vic M reported that the North American Society for Ocean History will be holding its annual conference in New Bedford, 16–18 May 2019. This conference is held in collaboration with the National Maritime Historical Society, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center. The conference theme is: “*Connecting the Global and Local: The Sea and Maritime Cities*”. Vic M is co-organizer/co-chair of the conference.

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D. Society for Historical Archaeology

Vic M reported that the Society for Historical Archaeology will be holding its annual conference on historical and underwater archaeology in Boston, 8-12 January 2020. The conference theme is “*Revolution*.” Vic M is underwater program co-chair with Dr. Calvin Mires, Bridgewater State University.

2. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board member reports.

3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. R.S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology

Vic M reported that he was asked to participate in the R.S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology’s Family Fun Day on February 21st. It was a free public event during the February school vacation week. He conducted a hands-on writing underwater activity. He has been asked to return for the April school vacation; he believes the date will be April 18th.

B. Boston Sea Rovers Annual Underwater Clinic

Vic M reported that he participated in the 2018 Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic on March 9 and 10 in Danvers. As with last few years, he had a small display at the Massachusetts Environmental Trust table and assisted at the Trust and Division of Marine Fisheries tables.

C. Middle School STEM Career Night

Vic M reported he was invited to participate in the STEM Career Night at the Collins Middle School in Salem on April 9, 6 to 8 PM. He will be presenting with Dr. Calvin Mires. They had lead a STEM summer Camp at the school in July 2017.

D. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center

Vic M reported the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center will once again host an Unusual Catches Day for fishermen. The event was rescheduled due to snow until on June 29th from 1-4 PM. The intent was to get active and retired fishermen to bring artifacts they have pulled up while fishing, their “Treasure from the Deep”. Vic M noted the Center received a lot of positive feedback for last year’s event. The invited panel of experts, John Fish, Dr. Calvin Mires, and Vic M, were on hand to examine these artifacts and provide some insights about their age and function. Vic M described some of the object brought in for identification. The event was open to the public and free.

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

Vic M reported he will again be co-leading a SSU Summer Institute (workshop) during the week of August 5 - 8, 2019 with Dr. Calvin Mires and Captain Laurel Seaborn, both of the Seafaring Education and Maritime Archaeological Heritage Program. 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 Vic M with field investigations and outreach events.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. North Atlantic Dive Expeditions

Vic M reported that Heather Knowles had submitted a report providing some brief updates to their cumulative report for the SAS-11 wreck. There was short discussion on the sonar image of the wreck in

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three pieces. He noted the high quality of the report. Ms. Knowles informed him they will be seeking a renewal of the reconnaissance permit this year,

B. Search, Inc.

Vic M reported of Michael Arbuthnot of SEARCH had submitted a letter report on the results of an archaeological site inspection and documentation of the Nomans Land Stone. He noted the high quality of the report. The results of this investigation will be presented in Season One of America's Lost Vikings, a Discovery Science Channel documentary television series. He noted they made specific effort to stay off the island. One of the report's conclusions was a recommendation that the stone be recovered before it images were destroyed by wave action and marine growth, and completed lost to the sea. Vic M compared this situation as similar to the Dighton Rock relocation from the Taunton River.

C. Action on Permits

Vic M reported that no Board action could not be taken on any permits at this time as there was no a quorum of Board members present at this meeting. John Warner asked how many members were needed for a quorum. Vic M stated five and reminded the Board he was not a voting member. He stated that he would use the administrative power of the Director (312 CMR 2.05) to extend the expiration dates of the permits under consideration today.

D. James M. Karos

Vic M reported that James M. Karos had submitted a renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Vic M reminded the Board that they could not on this permit today and that he would administratively extend it. Mr. Karos was in attendance to represent his permit and Vic M asked him to provide an update on his permit activities.

Mr. Karos stated he not been able to do a lot due working significant overtime to help cover tuition costs for two of his daughters. He finally received a "TWIC" card to allow his easier access to shoreline facilities. He wanted to continue photographing the various remains and wanted to complete an overall site map.

Dan asked Mr. Karos if he had noticed much movement of remains on the site since first starting on this project. Mr. Karos responded some of the loose boards appear to move around, but do not go far. He has to account for that when e photographs the site. He has noticed that over the year the layer of sediment fluctuates from year to year. He reminded the Board that there was not much change in the site as depicted in a 1940s photograph he showed the last year.

John Warner asked if the site was tidally underwater or always exposed. Mr. Karos said it was covered by 3 to 4 feet of water at high tide. He also noted he needs permission from Global Oil before entering the site. He also notifies the Coast Guard before entering the site.

John Warner asked him how he accesses the site, such as by boat. Mr. Karos said he come by land along the shore as the tidal movement will allow. He tends to go out a lunar long low tide periods.

Vic M stated he would extend the permit until the next Board meeting. He thanked Mr. Karos for his update. he noted, further, that it would not be necessary for Mr. Karos to attend that meeting to provide an update again

E. Alexander Bezkorovainy

Vic M noted that the only other action item of concern was the excavation permit held by Alexander Bezkorovainy which was up for renewal today. Mr. Bezkorovainy had not submitted his renewal application and annual report or otherwise communicated with the Board. Mr. Bezkorovainy was not in attendance to represent his permit application.

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Vic M said that since the Board did not receive any communication from Mr. Bezkorovainy regarding this permit, he would recommend that the Board consider allowing the permit to naturally expire. Given there was not a quorum of members, he was not sure on whether or not to administratively extend the permit. Dan Sampson suggested that the Board simply let the permit lapse. Vic M noted the Board had received no communication since it was renewed in September 2017.

John Warner asked if perhaps Mr. Bezkorovainy may have passed away. Vic M noted that none of correspondence has been returned by the United States Post Office. For example, nothing has been returned marked as "Not at this address" or "Forwarding order expired". Vic M did not believe it was the Board's responsibility to do detective work to find him. Permittees are required to maintain good communication with the Board

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

With no additional Board members present to achieve a quorum, the informal meeting of the Board was adjourned the Director at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director