



## MASSACHUSETTS SCHOONER ERNESTINA COMMISSION

Friday, April 27, 2017 | 12:00pm – 2:30pm

DUDLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE  
504 Dudley Street, Roxbury MA 02119

### MINUTES

**Attendance:** SEC Commissioners Laura Pires Hester, Licy Do Canto, Brian Rothschild, Karl Pastore, Dagney Ashley, Edward DePina, Jonathan Carvalho, and Eugene Monteiro. Also , Representative Carvalho, Manuel Gonsalves, Rick Porteus, Mary Anne McQuillan, Wendy Pearle, Harold Burnham, Nelson Cunha, Maria Mendes Henriques, and SNI representatives Ben and Jose.

Meeting held at SNI in Roxbury Ma and was called to order at 12 noon.

Laura Pires Hester asked for self-introductions of everyone.

Harold Burnham conducted a slide presentation of ongoing work being done on the ship, and presented samples of wood being used to replace the yellow pine that had been used in 1894. He showed a sample of that original wood. The slideshow included the cabin house built in Cabo Verde during the 1970s and made of African mahogany. That wood will be reused inside the vessel.

Wendy Pearl's report: According to Wendy, spending is on track in accordance with fiscal year spending requirements. We are still awaiting a response from the US Coast Guard as to tonnage waiver, etc. It is expected that phase one of the construction will be complete by the end of the contract in November 2018. Phase two plans continue to be incomplete. Brian raised the question as to the cost for phase 2 and Wendy answered it would be several million dollars and that MMA would play a role in phase 2. Brian stated that SEC ought to get intermediate updates as to planning. A meeting between DCR and MMA is scheduled for 5-1-17.

Reaction as to the meeting with MMA on 3-19-17: Laura and Gene attended while Licy participated by phone. Laura called the meeting "another step in the process." Admiral MacDonald understands the need for clarification, and support from stakeholders. He is very much interested in Ernestina-Morrissey coming to MMA but the uncertainty of funding sources is an obstacle that must be overcome. Licy stated he firmly believes MMA is committed to the vessel but emphasized the need to engage political

stakeholders as well as public and private donors. Gene stated that he felt the Admiral is very much interested in the vessel but added that the landscape at MMA has changed recently in terms of the Board of Directors. Some of the directors that were there during Admiral Gurnon's tenure are no longer serving and new members are not fully up to speed. It was obvious to Gene that Admiral MacDonald is proceeding carefully and that his choice of words was guarded.

Legislative update: with regard to the 9<sup>th</sup> seat for SEC, Licy said that legislative action is not necessary according to his talks with the governor's office. That seat is assigned to SEMA. Mary Anne will take that information back to Julius Britto.

Report from the nominating committee: The committee had been established several weeks ago and consists of Brian Rothschild, Dagny Ashley and Karl Pastore. The slate of officers recommended and submitted into nomination is as follows; Licy DoCanto as Chairman, and Ed DePina as Vice-Chairman. A vote was taken and the slate was unanimously voted in and approved.

Fundraising news- Mary Anne of SEMA reminded everyone that Bob Hildreth contributed 1 million dollars and that Gerry Lenfest, another major donor is standing by to see what other fundraising efforts are being put forward. Gene reminded everyone of the upcoming event on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Mary Anne presented a list of upcoming summer events.

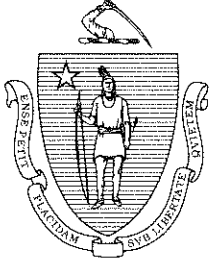
A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2-24-17 was submitted by Licy, seconded by Dagny. Motion passed.

Licy read a letter from Representative Tony Cabral of New Bedford congratulating Laura for her dedicated years of service to the SEC. A similar letter was received from the Cape Verdean Consulate and that was acknowledged as well. Laura was presented with various gifts and congratulatory remarks for her service as Chairperson and commitment to the Ernestina-Morrissey cause.

Newly elected Chairman DoCanto asked for closing remarks from everyone in attendance, and provided his own remarks calling for continued commitment from the community and that broader outreach throughout the state is vital in order to reach the desired outcome.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Submitted by Eugene A. Monteiro



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April 27, 2017

Dear Laura,

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to you for over a decade of committed and dedicated service to the Schooner Ernestina Commission (SEC). Under your leadership, as Chair of the SEC, you have been a key, driving force and passionate voice in highlighting the relevancy and significance of the Ernestina-Morrissey's rich heritage and her rightful place in history. In this same spirit, I am certain that your colleagues on the commission will carry the torch as firmly and lead as proudly as you have. I remain steadfast in the hope that we will see the day that she (Ernestina-Morrissey) will, once again, gloriously sail into New Bedford and Praia, Cabo Verde.

I wish you the very best of luck in the future!

Kind regards and muito obrigado.

Sincerely,

  
**ANTONIO F.D. CABRAL**

*State Representative, 13<sup>th</sup> Bristol District*

*Chairman, Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets*