



SCHOONER ERNESTINA COMMISSION (SEC)

*Department of Conservation and Recreation
Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Schooner Ernestina Commission Meeting Minutes of 1-15-16

Meeting was called to order at 1:01pm by chairman Pires-Hester. Other commissioners present were Fred Sterner, Eugene Monteiro, Brian Rothschild, and Licy Do Canto [phone in]. Also in attendance were Chuck Smiler, Emily Prigot (NPS), Melissa Devalles, Mary Anne McQuillan, Rick Porteus, and Anne and Steve Markowski.

Updates and Announcements- National Park management planning survey was circulated and commissioners were asked to complete it and submit. Regarding holdover positions for SEC, the following seats remain unfilled; education, and E-M Historical Association. It is expected they will be filled at some point in the future. (These have to be clarified because apparently Education has been restructured into two departments, and EMHA no longer exists. Follow-up is needed.) Fred provided photos of E-M at Boothbay in various stages of construction. Gene announced the Sailors series" lecture at the Whaling Museum scheduled for Thursday April 7 at 6pm. The lecture is titled "Rebirth of the Ernestina" and the speakers include author Chester Brigham, Harold Burnham, and David Short of Boothbay Shipyard. Mary Anne announced that there is an article about E-M in the February issue of *Soundings* magazine.

DCR Report- Karl and Wendy were unable to attend, however, Wendy Pearl's report was available for discussion. There was much discussion and concern about how the design and refit would affect future programming concerns and MMA needs. Melissa commented that there is no mention in phase 2 of the project for oceangoing/student possibilities. Laura is concerned that we do not limit possibilities as to programming etc. Brian suggested that a representative from MMA be present at meetings so that SEC concerns are heard and considered.

Planning for E-M Future- There was discussion about equipment and the concern that useful equipment is being saved and stored safely. Mary Anne reported that the dories are in a safe place at State Pier; Brian asked that care is given so we are not throwing away useful/historical items. Laura replied that Fred is our representative on that. Rick Porteus suggested that Harold Burnham might also be helpful to identify historical/useful equipment. Regarding the initial

draft MOU, Laura noted that SEC was not listed as a signatory. She asked all commissioners to review the draft and to reply as to what we would like the MOU to say. Fred, Licy, Brian and Gene weighed in on making certain there is clarity as to roles, expectations, timelines, etc. Brian said we must keep in mind the potential impact with the National Park, Whaling Museum, and other stakeholders. Laura would like E-M's history and significance embedded into the MOU language. Melissa echoed the need for clarity that ensures clear understanding of expectations of all parties to the agreement. Chuck suggests that the language of the draft is unclear and that it should outline specifics. Laura said this is a starting point, and Melissa added that the draft is merely to gain a level of commitment from MMA. Laura asked that Fred, Gene, and Licy join her in a planning Work Group to identify key points for consideration in the MOU/A; she will set up a convenient meeting time. (Note: Laura also later asked longtime volunteer Chuck Smiler to consult with the group to offer advice from a legal perspective.)

PUBLIC COMMENT—Mary Anne stated that the business plan needs to include Summer programming and identifying all stakeholders such as the city, schools, university, community boating assoc. etc. The establishment of a business will have an impact on identifying donors.

Rick stated it's important to involve the public to determine interest. Chuck stated the planning should start with a business model that would develop into a plan.

Next meeting will be announced at a later date. Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Submitted by Eugene Monteiro, SEC Commissioner.