

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 29 JANUARY 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Bell (Designee of Cara Metz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)
John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Richard Murray (Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Joseph Pelczarski (Designee of Thomas Skinner, Director of Coastal Zone Management)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)
David Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist) – pending reappointment
Kevin Mooney (Designee of Nancy Thornton, Director of DEM Division of Waterways)

PROCEEDINGS:

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone at 1:35 PM on 29 January 2004 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of 4 December 2003

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 4 December 2003. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Richard Murray moved to accept the minutes of the 4 December 2003 public meeting. Joe Pelczarski seconded. 6 votes in favor, 1 abstention (Ed Bell). So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Victor reported that the Board has begun procuring some of the equipment that was discussed at previous meetings including a DGPS unit and dive gear. In keeping with the effort to share equipment when possible, the DGPS unit purchased by the Board is the same type utilized by the Environmental Police and will be available as that agency's back up. Victor stated that he has not decided if the Board will purchase remote sensing equipment at this time due to potential capital restrictions and the objectives of this year's field season.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ed Bell reported that the Historical Commission has provided comments to the newly formed Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force regarding the formulation of policy and or legislation pertaining to submerged cultural resources. Ed provided the Board members with copies of the comments. Victor stated that the Board has not yet submitted its comments to the Task Force, but would be doing so shortly. Joe Pelczarski noted that the deadline for comments has been extended until 13 February and added that all comments will be posted the Coastal Zone Management website.

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4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH

A. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration Peer Review Committee

Victor reported that he attended the Peer Review Committee meeting for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration in Maryland in December. The Committee reviewed more than eighty grants for the 2004 grant round over a two-day period. He estimated that forty percent of the proposals examined supported archaeology as the principal discipline. Although he was restricted from commenting on particular proposals, Victor noted that several involved research in the Gulf of Alaska and the Samoan area.

B. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Maritime Archaeology Working Group

Victor reported that he attended the third meeting of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Maritime Archaeology Working Group on January 20th in Scituate, while David and Marcie Bilinski (who serves as the technical diving advisor) attended the second meeting on December 16th. The working group was organized to guide the Sanctuary in the development of a management plan for its archaeological resources including the remains of the steamer *Portland*. The group, which comprised of representatives from a wide range of maritime interests including commercial and recreational fishing, diving, and education, will meet regularly throughout the year.

C. Society for Historical Archaeology Conference

Victor reported that he attended the Society for Historical Archaeology's (SHA) 37th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology held on January 7-11, 2004 in St. Louis, MS. Victor noted that he and Chris Amer of the South Carolina Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology co-chaired the Annual International Underwater Resource Managers' Forum. This year's forum was entitled *Government Maritime Managers' Forum XIII: Up the Mainmast in the Boatswain's Chair by the Seat of Your Pants*. The workshop serves as an opportunity for the various cultural resource managers to get together and discuss current issues. In addition to the state managers, the federal agencies were well represented, particularly NOAA and the Minerals Management Service (MMS). Victor stated that MMS and NOAA seem to be taking a lead role in their cultural resource management and that NOAA is currently creating a national maritime heritage center in Norfolk, Virginia.

Victor noted that he was elected to the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, which is an independent organization affiliated with the Society for Historical Archaeology. This year's council meeting focused on the UNESCO Convention and its implementation in the United States as well as the development of professional standards for archaeologists.

D. Boston Sea Rovers Annual Underwater Clinic and the Boston Scuba Show

Victor informed the Board that the Boston Sea Rovers is holding its 50th Annual Underwater Clinic on March 5-7 at the Fairmont Copley Hotel in Boston. The Board will have literature for distribution at the Department of Marine Fisheries booth. Also, the Boston Scuba Show is scheduled for 21 February at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro.

5. OLD BUSINESS

CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS – Victor changed the order of OLD BUSINESS in considering the permit renewal application of Restoration Project, Inc. as Tom Mulloy of Bassings Cove Maritime Association had not yet arrived.

B. Restoration Project, Inc.

Victor reported that Restoration Project, Inc. (RPI) had submitted its Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Eloise Newell and Kevin Kennedy of RPI and Chris Hugo were in attendance to present the application.

Mr. Hugo reported that two dives were conducted at the site last year. Due to navigational difficulties, the team had trouble reacquiring the magnetic targets that were generated through the survey conducted by John Fish of American Underwater Search and Survey. Mr. Hugo emphasized that accurate navigation is critical at this site because of the extremely limited visibility and deep mud overburden. He noted that the survey revealed three distinct magnetic

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anomalies with in the search area. The plan for this year's field season is to have John Fish return to the site and have the divers in the water to inspect these targets as soon as they are reacquired. Mr. Hugo added that the dive team will be comprised of volunteers from the South Shore Neptunes Dive Club and will be ready to go as soon as the ice melts from the pond.

Victor asked if there is enough ice on the pond to support the use of ground penetrating radar. Joe Pelczarski responded that the ice is still very thick through most of the region. Chris Hugo stated that the use of ground penetrating radar could be very helpful, but cautioned that there are numerous logs in the survey area that are either on or just under the bottom surface. It is possible that these logs could mask the magnetic anomalies on the radar. Joe asked if there is any indication that ice was historically harvested from this pond. Mr. Kennedy replied that his research has he has not seen any evidence of icehouses on the pond through the course of his research.

Ed Bell asked how far down in the mud they expect the piano to be. Mr. Hugo replied that beer cans from the 1960s have been retrieved from as deep as two to three feet in the sediment. The rate of siltation at this site seems to be somewhere in the neighborhood of a foot per decade. Based on this rate, it is likely that the piano is buried in about five feet of sediment. Mr. Hugo showed the survey chart to the Board members and pointed out which anomalies have already been investigated and noted that one anomaly turned out to be a segment of iron pipe.

Victor asked Ms. Newell and Mr. Kennedy if they have had any new feed back from the general public regarding this project. Ms. Newell responded that public interest seems to correspond with the beginning and end of the baseball season. She noted that the big development for this year was the interest shown by the Substance Abuse, Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA has been very helpful with RPI's plan to incorporate this project into an anti-stigma campaign. In addition to supplying RPI with lists of foundations that fund such campaigns, the agency has assigned a contact person to provide RPI with relevant facts and statistics to be used in future presentations. Ms. Newell explained that her organization would like to use the concept of the "Curse of the Bambino" to illustrate the significance of community support in its attempt to change public perceptions of people with mental illnesses. Victor stated that this is a good way to tie into the Babe Ruth curse story and noted it's national popularity. Ms. Newell concluded by stating that she went to Baltimore last May and met with Greg Schwalenberg, Curator of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum. She reported that the museum is also quite interested in the project.

Terry French asked if there is any idea as to the type of piano for which they are searching. Ms. Newell responded that they do not have any documentation referring to the type, but they suspect it is an upright. She added that her organization has been working with Paul Murphy of Steinert and Sons Pianos. Mr. Murphy provided John Fish with the likely dimensions of an upright piano of that time period including the amount of ferrous materials it would have likely contained. Ms. Newell added that according to Mr. Murphy, if they are able to recover a serial number from the piano, a tremendous amount of information regarding the piano could be obtained including when and by whom it was purchased.

Marcie Bilinski moved to renew the Reconnaissance Permit (02-001) held by Restoration Project, Inc. for its Willis Pond site with all standard conditions in effect and the further condition that Restoration Project, Inc. coordinate its activities with the Department of Conservation and Recreation staff archaeologist. John Hoagland seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

C. Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Victor reported that Suzanne Cherau of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) has requested an extension of her firm's reconnaissance permit for its proposed survey of Slaters Pond in Oxford. The request is the result of significant delays in the proposed dam repair project and possible changes in the project's scope of work. Victor noted that details of the request are specified in Ms. Cherau's letter to the Board of 7 January 2004. The granting of an extension of this permit would allow the Town of Oxford time to reassess the situation and determine an appropriate course of action. Victor stated that he had spoken with the town engineer last spring and was informed that due to some unresolved issues with engineering firm with which the town had contracted, the project has been put on hold.

Ed Bell moved to extend the Reconnaissance Permit (03-001) held by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. for its Slaters Pond site until the Board's next public meeting on 25 March 2004. Richard Murray seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

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A. Bassings Cove Maritime Association

Victor reported that Bassings Cove Maritime Association (BCMA) had submitted an Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Thomas Mulloy was expected to be present to represent the project, but had not arrived. Victor explained that the Board had the option to either vote on the permit renewal application today or grant an extension of BCMA's current permit until the next Board meeting scheduled for 25 March. Ed Bell stated that as the Board is very familiar with this project and the permittee has always been responsive to the Board's requests and inquiries, he saw no reason why the Board should not consider the permit renewal request today. Victor agreed with Ed and urged the Board to grant the permit renewal. He added that Mr. Mulloy has always been forthcoming with information regarding the project and has on numerous occasions invited the Board members to dive the site. Victor added that the project is largely in hiatus at this time, while BCMA considers funding options.

Lenny Loparto asked Victor if BCMA has identified any new artifacts from the site either through dives or analysis of the conglomerates. Victor responded that based on the organizations annual report, there was very little field work conducted during the past year. He stated that to the best of his recollection, lab work that was being conducted with the assistance of student volunteers has stopped at least for the time being. He added that the Board could follow up on this question with BCMA.

Victor asked the Board members if they wanted to move ahead with the permit renewal despite the absence of Mr. Mulloy. The Board indicated that it would like to consider the permit renewal application today.

Ed Bell moved to renew the Excavation Permit (91-001) held by Bassings Cove Maritime Association for its Scituate site with all standard conditions remaining in effect and the additional condition that the permittee submit for Board approval a site assessment and detailed scope of work prepared by the project archaeologist prior to undertaking any site excavation activities relative to the removal of the main conglomerate. John Hoagland seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Marcie Bilinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 PM. Richard Murray seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director