

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Bell (Designee of Cara Metz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)
Roger Thurlow (Designee of James Hanlon, Acting Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
Michael Driscoll (Designee of Nancy Thornton, Director of DEM Division of Waterways)
Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist – non-voting, pending reappointment)
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)
David Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)
Joe Pelczarski (Designee of Thomas Skinner, Director of Coastal Zone Management)

PROCEEDINGS:

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone, at 1:38 PM on 30 September 2004 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of 27 May 2004

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 27 May 2004. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Terry French moved to accept the minutes of the public meeting held on 27 May 2004. Marcie Bilinski seconded. 4 votes in favor. 1 abstention (Ed Bell). So voted.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Resolution recognizing the service of Joseph A. Sinnott

Victor reported that former Director and Board member, Joseph A. Sinnott passed away on September 16, 2004. Joe served on the Board from 1976 through 1986 in capacity as the State's Director of Mineral Resources. After leaving, in his capacity as State Geologist, and during his retirement, Joe continued to provide technical assistance to the Board's staff on geological questions, most recently with the Nipmuc THPO permit at Lake Quinsigamund. Vic asked the Board to consider a resolution recognizing Joe's contribution to the early years of the Board.

Terry French moved: It is resolved by the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources to express its appreciation and gratitude to Joseph A. Sinnott for his years of services to the Board as a member and director, from 1976 through 1986, and later as a volunteer technical advisor. Joe's active participation in the Board's early years helped to promote the Board's mission and laid the groundwork for the professional Board we have today. Michael Driscoll seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So resolved.

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B. NOAA RMS Titanic Expedition

Victor reported that he and David participated in a satellite live link-up with this summer's *RMS Titanic* Expedition through the Innerspace Center at the University of Rhode Island. He and David were invited by Dr. Robert Ballard (Institute for Exploration and URI) and Capt. Craig Mclean (NOAA) to take part in the June 7th meeting, which was unique opportunity to contribute to a cutting edge research and public education program. Participants also discussed future research opportunities/proposals with representatives of NOAA and the National Park Service as well as URI and other university scientists.

C. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Research Cruises

Victor reported that David joined Matthew Lawrence, Deborah Marx and other NOAA staff on the *RV Nancy Foster* in mid June for a research cruise in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The objective of the cruise was to image known and potential shipwrecks in the sanctuary with side scan sonar. Despite poor weather at the beginning and end, the trip was very successful and provided data for additional fieldwork.

Victor reported that on July 21-22, he and David assisted with the interpretation of ROV video images of several shipwrecks in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The work, with Sanctuary archaeologists and other researchers, was conducted from the *RV Connecticut* and is part of the Argonaut Program, a joint educational program of the Sanctuary and the University of Connecticut.

D. Townsend Crime Scene Investigation

Victor reported that, at the request of the Massachusetts Environmental Police, he and David assisted the Townsend Police Department in the investigation of a potential crime scene. Victor, David and Kevin Robicheau of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game provided GPS support for the investigation, which involved the training and dredging of Walker Pond from June to early July.

E. USS O-9 Expedition

Victor reported that last weekend he participated in a NOAA expedition to the site of the U.S. Submarine O-9, which sank during a training mission in June 1941 with all 33 crewmen. The site was re-located in 1997 by retired Navy Captain Glen Reem and Klein Associates using side scan sonar. The purpose of this expedition was to undertake an ROV survey of the vessel and video document the site, and possibly answer why it was lost. The National Undersea Research Center and the University of Connecticut provided the vessel and technical support for NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration. Personnel comprising the expedition resulted from a cooperative effort between the states of Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire and the History Channel. The chief scientist was Susan Langley, state underwater archaeologist for MD.

Marcie Bilinski asked Victor about water visibility. Victor estimated that it was less than five feet, which was not as good as he had hoped it would be, but it was good enough to make out specific features of the wreck. He described the vessel as being fairly in tact from the bow to the conning tower. Aft the conning tower, there is noticeable structural damage theoretically caused by the vessel impacting the seafloor after spiraling stern first to the bottom. Victor noted that the site was loaded with red fish and pollack, which are attracted to the lights on the ROV, further limiting visibility of the wreck.

F. Ipswich Fieldwork

Victor reported that he and David conducted preliminary measurements of a shipwreck located near Crane's Beach in the inner bay of Ipswich. The wreck, which is believed to be the schooner *Ada K. Damon* (1909), has been visible at very low tide this summer. Victor and David plan to do more research and possibly survey the site later this fall.

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G. GOMMI Workshop

Victor reported that, at the request of the Office of Coastal Zone Management, he would be participating in the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative Workshop at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center on October 4-5. The purpose of the workshop is to address the implementation of the strategic plan for mapping the Gulf of Maine's seafloor.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Ed Bell

Ed Bell reminded the Board that Archaeology Month in Massachusetts begins tomorrow (October 1st) and distributed calendars and posters describing this year's events.

B. Marcie Bilinski

Marcie Bilinski reported that she participated in a research cruise on the RV Connecticut to the site of the steamer *Portland* with the staff of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Additionally, at the request of the Sanctuary staff, she conducted reconnaissance dives in the Sanctuary to assist in the investigation of sites detected by side scan sonar earlier in the summer. She stated that one of the wrecks appears to have sanded over and unfortunately, due to strong currents and poor weather conditions, the other dives were not very successful. Marcie added that she would be assisting a diver/author with site visits for an upcoming book regarding shipwrecks in Boston Harbor area. Among the sites visited thus far are the *City of Salisbury*, *Romance*, *Holmes* and *Coyote*. They intend to visit all of the sites on the Board's list of Exempted Shipwrecks.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH

A. Archaeology Month 2004 Event

Victor reported that for this year's participation in Archaeology Month, the Board would be co-sponsoring an exhibit and lecture with the Newburyport Maritime Society and Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL). The event, entitled *Through the Looking Glass: Technology's Role in Underwater Archaeology*, highlights the technologies used by marine archaeologists to locate and study shipwrecks and other underwater archaeological sites. The event will include hands-on equipment demonstrations and a presentation by David Robinson of PAL, Inc. It will be held at the Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport on Saturday, October 16th from 1-5 pm.

Additionally, Victor has been invited to speak at the Newburyport Maritime Society's fall lecture series on October 19th. Victor's presentation will discuss marine archaeology in Massachusetts and will be held at the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport.

B. Bay State Council of Divers Meeting

Victor reported that David attended the August 11th meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers. The majority of the meeting focused on plans for creating an artificial reef in Massachusetts Bay. Council members planned to conduct a video survey of the bottom conditions at their proposed reef site in coordination with the Division of Marine Fisheries. A letter writing campaign was also discussed that would solicit support for the reef project from both the public and private sectors. David briefed the Council on projects with which the Board is involved and answered questions regarding shipwrecks in Boston's Outer Harbor.

C. Seventh Maritime Heritage Conference

Victor stated the he and David would be attending the Seventh Maritime Heritage Conference in Norfolk, VA from October 27-30. The conference, held every three years, brings together the widest range of maritime history professionals, scholars, and enthusiasts. There will be many useful presentations. Victor described the

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conference as a unique opportunity to meet with people in allied fields and interests. He added that attending the conference would be beneficial as Coastal Zone Management considers establishing a maritime trail program.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Philip D. Greco Associates

Victor reminded the Board that Philip D. Greco Associates had submitted its two Reconnaissance Permit renewal applications just prior to the Board's last meeting in May. As the applications were not received by the deadline of thirty days prior to the meeting, the Board was not able to vote on the permit renewal, but rather chose to extend the current permits until today's meeting. Victor also reminded the Board that Mr. Greco attended the May meeting to present his applications and answer questions.

Ed Bell moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (92-001) held by Philip D. Greco Associates for its Eastham/Wellfleet site with all standard conditions in effect, and further, that the effective date of this renewal is made retroactive to 27 May 2004. Marcie Bilinski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Marcie Bilinski moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (92-002) held by Philip D. Greco Associates for its Wellfleet site with all standard conditions in effect, and further, that the effective date of this renewal is made retroactive to 27 May 2004. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

B. Nipmuc Nation - Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Victor reported that on he, David and Chris Hugo conducted reconnaissance dives in Lake Quinsigamond at the request of Cheryl Stedtler. The objective of the July 26th dives was to relocate dugouts number 1 and 2 and assess their current condition. Dugout number 1 appears the same as it did when last visited in November 2001. Due to extremely limited visibility, dugout number 2 was not relocated. However, the remains of a small wooden sailboat were found slightly north of the dugout site and were examined briefly by Chris and David. Victor noted that Cheryl Stedtler and her family as well as several other tribal members were present for the dives and kindly prepared food for an end of the day cookout.

C. Underwater Discoveries Unlimited

Victor reported that Oscar Snow has submitted information regarding his organization's plans for the excavation and conservation of archaeological materials. The information was received just prior to the meeting and has not yet been reviewed by Victor and David.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Maritime Archaeology in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Victor introduced maritime archaeologists Matthew Lawrence and Deborah Marx of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary who were in attendance to present their recent work on the *Portland* and other shipwrecks in the Sanctuary.

Terry French moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 PM. Ed Bell seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director