

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
MINUTES OF INFORMAL PUBLIC MEETING – 24 September 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Mooney (Designee of Director of DCR Division of Waterways)  
Jonathon Patton (Designee of Brona Simon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)  
Dan Sampson (Designee of Bruce Carlisle, Director of Coastal Zone Management)  
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)  
Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)  
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)  
Graham McKay (Marine Archaeologist)  
Gary Murad (Dive Community Representative)  
Roger Thurlow (Designee of James McGinn, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)

**PROCEEDINGS:**

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone, at 1:43 PM on 24 September 2015 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street, Boston. As no quorum of Board members were in attendance, Victor began the meeting as an informal session while waiting for additional Board members to arrive. During informal session, the Board may hold discussions but could not take action [vote] on any item. Victor said he would begin with those items on the agenda that did not require Board action.

**1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Leland Crawford**

Victor reported that the Board's intern, Leland Crawford, had left the Board's service to continue his graduate education. He will be pursuing his masters degree at the University of Southern Denmark. Leland had started working at the Board back in January 2014. He had assisted Victor in all aspects of the Board's mission, worked on several field projects and reports, developed a hand-held camera device for creating photo-mosaics, and served as a teaching assistant for the summer institute. In consideration of Leland's efforts, Victor said he would be asking the Board to approve a resolution recognizing Leland's contribution.

**B. Field Investigations**

Victor noted he continued to be busy with field investigations of beach shipwreck sites throughout the summer. He had hoped to be assisted this Summer and Fall by a doctoral student, Jennifer Jones, from East Carolina University, but she has been thus far unable to secure any long-term funding support to work up here. She was able to come here for one week in July and assist with the summer institute which he would describe later. She would like to use such sites in Massachusetts as a case study for her dissertation.

**(1). Nantasket Beach**

Victor stated that at the Board's May meeting he reported on a shipwreck becoming exposed at the north end of Nantasket Beach, outside the state reservation near Kennerly Road. With assistance from Victoria (Vicki) Stevens, Hull Lifesavings Museum regarding a shipwreck He visited the site on May 7<sup>th</sup>. He was assisted by Vicki and some local volunteers (including the nearby U.S. Coast Guard Station), they returned to the site on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The site had completely covered over and they attempted to expose the shipwreck. Despite having GPS coordinates as well reference points from adjacent landmarks, their test trenches could not get deep enough to expose the site. Hull Life Saving Museum will continue to monitor the situation; if the site becomes exposed, Victor will return to the

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site. Victor noted there was some concern of possible site vandalism, but they had received significant support in on-going monitoring of the site by both the Hull Police Department and the Massachusetts Environmental Police.

**(2). Crane Estate, The Trustees of the Reservation**

Victor reported that in early August he returned to continue documentation of the Ada K. Damon shipwreck site. While there, a visitor asked if we had seen the other nearby shipwreck. Victor accompanied the visitor to the location and observed a ship's stem post lying on the sand. It was well worn, but the marine growth appeared recent suggesting being exposed for only a short time. On a subsequent visit, Victor and volunteer Neil Glickstein conducting some probing and undertook a measured drawing of the stem. Probing revealed the stem to be a single disarticulated object. Victor said he was working Trustees staff to determine if recovery and conservation was feasible.

**(3). Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

Victor reported he had been contacted regarding a shipwreck exposing on Plum Island within the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. He contacted the Refuge manager and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regional archaeologist. To assist FWS, BUAR examined the site with help from Board member Graham McKay, Laurel Seaborn, several field school volunteers (Greg Lott, Catie McCarthy, Samantha Knowles) and Kate Gilbert. Based on the examination of location, extant remains, and the recorded metric for several vessels lost in that area, it was determined this is the shipwreck site for the Essex-built schooner *Ingomar*. A letter report and site plan is forthcoming.

**(4). CCNS Marconi Beach**

Victor reported he had responded to a message in early September regarding possible vessel wreckage appearing on Marconi Beach in Wellfleet. He spoke with the informant and found out he had also contacted, Bill Burke at the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS). Victor subsequently contacted Bill Burke. After examination of photographs and discussions with several colleagues, it was determined the vessel remains were a ship's stem. Victor recommended to Bill that CCNS recover the timber which they have subsequently done. Vic hopes to coordinate a visit very soon to examine the recovered material.

**2. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Jonathon Patton announced that October is Massachusetts Archaeology Month. The anonymous shipwreck on Coffins Beach is the subject of this year's poster.

**3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**A. Bay State Council of Divers Meeting**

Victor reported that he attended the meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers on 29 July 2015. The meeting focused on the Council's planning the annual Club Dive/Treasure Hunt and Picnic, beach access issues, and Board projects. The annual picnic was held on 20 September 2015 at State Fort Park in Gloucester with approximately 100 people affiliated with 13 different clubs, dive shops, and other diving organizations present. A total of 61 divers participated in the scuba and snorkel competitions. Vic distributed the Board's outreach materials and answered questions. The next Council meeting will be 14 October 2015 where beach access will be the main focus of the meeting.

**B. Phillips Academy (Andover) Pecos Pathways Program**

Victor stated he participated in Phillips Academy's Pecos Pathways Program. The program involved 10 high students from Phillips Academy, Pueblo of Jemez students and the town of Pecos.

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These students travel together to learn about ancestral and contemporary native communities, and archaeology. BUAR was asked to participate during the final week (last field day) by providing the unique opportunity to experience maritime archaeology hands on (without diving) on June 23, 2015. They assisted in mapping an anonymous in Manchester.

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

Victor reported he, Dr. Calvin Mires and Captain Laurel Seaborn, both of the Seafaring Education and Maritime Archaeological Heritage Program, co-lead a summer institute (workshop) during the week of 13 July 2015. It was essentially an intensive one-week archaeological field school. Victor noted he used vacation leave. They were assisted by Leland Crawford, Jennifer Jones, and Neil Glickstein. The 15 participants received three undergraduate credit hours from Salem State University and a certificate from the Nautical Archaeology Society. It is intended to be a starting point for training citizen scientist volunteers.

The field component of the institute took place at Steep Hill Beach at Trustees of the Reservation's Crane Estate in Ipswich. Students undertook the documentation of the Essex-built schooner *Ada K. Damon*.

After the course was completed, several students (Annika Heinold, Catie McCarthy, Elizabeth Kruger, and Greg Lott) assisted in further documentation of the site in August.

This project attracted significant attention. This included three front-page articles in the Salem News, the Boston Globe Metro section, the Newburyport Daily News, Newburyport Current, the Ipswich Chronicle and North Shore Sunday. It was also a featured segment on Newton's Innovation Showcase cable television.

**D. FEMA Processing Center**

Victor reported that he gave a presentation at the FEMA Processing Center in Maynard 23 on July 2015. The talk was entitled "Underwater Archaeology: Revealing Massachusetts Hidden History." I would estimate about 40 staff were present. The talk was broadcast to other facilities.

**E. Barnstable Senior Center**

Victor reported that he gave a presentation at the Barnstable Senior Center on 17 September 2015. The talk was entitled "*Drift Wood, Stone Circles, Three Canoes, a Lost Lighthouse and a Piano: Stories of Collaboration and Engaging the Public.*" This was a rescheduling of a talk he originally planned to present this past winter.

**F. Archaeology Month 2015/AIA-MOS Archaeology Fair**

Victor reported that October will be Massachusetts Archaeology Month. The Coffins Beach shipwreck is featured on this year's poster. The photograph was taken by David S. Robinson in 2014. The Board will again be participating in the Museum of Science/Archaeological Institute of America Archaeology Fair on Friday and Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The first day is for school groups and the second day is for family groups. We will be doing our usual hands-on shipwreck activity. Victor also noted that Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, is designated as the International Day of Archaeology.

**G. Friends of Dighton Rock**

Victor reported that he will be giving a presentation to the Friends of Dighton Rock at 1 P.M. on Sunday, 8 November 2015. The lecture is entitled "Hidden History: Underwater Archaeology of Massachusetts". It will be held at the museum in Dighton Rock State Park.

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**H. The Boston Navigators Club**

Victor reported he will be giving a presentation to the Boston Navigators Club on Friday, 13 November 2015. The lecture is entitled "*Finding the First Minot's Ledge Lighthouse: 'I shall...die in the performance of my duty'*". This will be part of the Club's annual meeting in Randolph.

**I. Massasoit Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society**

Victor reported that he will be giving a presentation to the Massasoit Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society at 7 P.M. on Wednesday evening, 18 November 2015. The lecture is entitled "*Finding the First Minot's Ledge Lighthouse: 'I shall...die in the performance of my duty'*". It is the third lecture in a series of lectures featuring underwater archaeology sponsored by the Massasoit Chapter. It will be held at the Robbins Museum in Middleborough.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Expiring Permits**

Victor noted that the Board had not reached a quorum and several permits were up for renewal at this meeting. The permittees were Alexander Bezkorovainy (06-002), Gary Esper (12-005, 12-006), Goodwin & Associates (13-002), Maxwell Kennedy (13-003), and David S. Robinson & Associates (14-001). Victor stated that he would administratively extend the expiration date of these permits until the next scheduled meeting of the Board on 3 December 2015.

**B. Gary Esper**

Victor reported that the two permits held by Gary Esper were up for renewal today. Victor noted that since there was no quorum present, the Board could not act on the renewal request. However, Mr. Esper was in attendance to represent his two permit renewal applications. Victor asked him to address the Board.

Mr. Esper reported he had not been conducting fieldwork. He had been focusing his efforts on historical research, particularly the *Rolla*. He had taken on this task after the death of project's historical researcher, Richard Weckler. Victor noted that Mr. Weckler had always been generous in providing historical information to the Board.

Victor said that he would administratively extend the expiration date of the two permits held by Gary Esper until the next scheduled meeting of the Board on 3 December 2015.

At this point, no additional Board members had arrived to reach the necessary quorum of five Board members. After consulting with the three Board members in attendance, it was decided to end the informal meeting. Victor adjourned the informal session of the Board at 2:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone  
Director