The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone at 1:30 PM on 26 January 2012 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street in Boston.

Victor introduced Environmental Police Officer Jack Chapin who would be replacing John Tulik representing the Massachusetts Environmental Police at today’s meeting.

1. MINUTES

   A. Minutes 1 December 2011

   Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 1 December 2011. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

   Kevin Mooney moved to accept the minutes of the 1 December 2011 public meeting. Lenny Loparto seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

2. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

   A. Society for Historical Archaeology

   Victor reported that that he attended the Society for Historical Archaeology’s (SHA) 43th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology held on January 4-8 in Baltimore, MD. Victor noted that he and Chris Amer of the South Carolina Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology organized and led the Annual Government Maritime Managers’ Forum representing state, federal, and foreign government programs. This year’s forum was entitled Government Maritime Managers’ Forum XX: To Go in Harm's Way or the Daily Life of a Government Manager. Victor participated in a panel on Solving Problems in the Public Interpretation of Maritime Cultural Heritage and was a co-presenter with BUAR Research Fellow Justin Bensley on “More Than Just Marine Debris: Massachusetts’s Shoreline Heritage Identification Partnerships – SHIPS”. Victor participated in a session on “Building Maritime Heritage Capacity at the National Level” was co-presenter with Dr. Valerie Grussing of NOAA’s MPA Center on “Cultural Heritage Resource Developments in the National System of Marine Protected Areas”. He also participated in the annual meeting of the SHA UNESCO Committee. Victor stated that funding for this travel was personal and he used vacation time to attend this important professional meeting.
B. Brendan Foley

Victor reported that Dr. Brendan Foley’s appointment as a Board member has expired and Brendan had decided not to apply for re-appointment. Brendan had served as the marine archaeologist representative on the Board since 2002. Victor asked the Board to formally recognize Brendan’s dedication and commitment.

Joe Pelczarski moved: It is resolved by the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources to express its appreciation and gratitude to Brendan Foley for his nine years of service to the Board and the Commonwealth. Since 2002, Brendan has participated in meetings, provided invaluable guidance to the Board and permittees, and assisted in outreach activities promoting the Board’s mission. Kevin Mooney seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So resolved.

C. BUAR Webpage

Victor reported he was working with the CZM webmaster, Robin Lacey, to update the Board’s webpage. This will include the SHIPS initiative with an on-line reporting form, battlefield report, and exempt site process.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board member reports.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH

A. Bay State Council of Divers

Victor stated he would be attending a meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers on February 8 at the South Shore Neptunes Club House in Quincy.

B. North Shore Frogman

Victor stated we would be a presentation on the Board’s investigation of the Revolutionary War Battle of Chelsea Creek to the North Shore Frogman’s Dive Club on Thursday, February 9 at 8 PM. This is a re-schedule from last February. The club meets at the Palmer’s Cove Yacht Club in Salem.

C. Boston SCUBA Show

Victor reported that The Boston SCUBA Show would be held on Saturday, February 26, at the Marlboro Holiday Inn from 10 AM – 3 PM. There is free parking.

D. Boston Sea Rovers Annual Underwater Clinic

Victor informed the Board that the 2012 Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic would be held on March 9-11. This year’s venue will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Danvers, same as last year, which featured improved exhibitor space and free parking.

E. Martha’s Vineyard Museum

Victor informed the Board he would be giving a presentation at Martha’s Vineyard Museum on May 15, 2012. The specific topic to be determined.
F. Beneath the Sea

Marcie Bilinski noted that the annual Beneath the Sea Conference would be on March 23–25 at the Meadowlands in Seacaucus, NJ. She was planning to attend the conference.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bassings Cove Maritime Association

Victor reported that Bassings Cove Maritime Association (BCMA) had submitted its Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board’s regulations. He noted they had again submitted a very thorough application. Vic added the Board had recognized a resolution at the December meeting the late Bill Carter who was a founding member of their group. Tom Mulloy and Hank Lynch were in attendance to represent BCMA.

Mr. Lynch stated that as their report noted they did not do a lot of diving last year as the site was heavily sanded in. Deb Jackson recovered a few small pieces. She is continuing her education outreach program in school and this is tied into the Massachusetts Department of Education curriculum. She will be having a program in March tied into their work on the Forest Queen and other shipwrecks, such as in the Florida Keys. Marcie asked him to describe this a little. Hank said they use the Forest Queen to illustrate that we have a rich maritime history here as well.

Mr. Mulloy reported that during his site visit last Spring he observed the large pedestal area to the southwest side has collapsed. Similarly, the large area on the south end also snapped off. He noted the pedestal was eroding quickly. These components are likely buried under the sand. Vic summarized that the conglomerate was basically breaking up and sanding over. Tom noted their tanks were ready at the museum to hold any pieces of conglomerate that are recovered.

Marcie Bilinski moved to grant renewal of 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. Kevin Mooney seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

B. James M. Karos

Victor reported that James Karos had submitted his Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board’s regulations. He noted that Mr. Karos had again submitted a very thorough application. Mr. Karos was in attendance to represent his application.

Mr. Karos showed the Board a new mosaic of another wreck he has been documenting in his permit area. He explained the various features he has been documenting. This one is closest to the channel. It is only accessible and visible at dead low tide. At first, he was not sure if it was part of an old dock/pier or part of vessel. Vic said it looked like frames and planking near the bow or stern. Jim noted there is a lot of wreckage out there. Jim said that Global Oil has been very cooperative, but want notice by 1 PM on Fridays. He has also begun documenting the middle wreck. Vic observed that this locus did not appear as a completely separate vessel until the latest aerial photographs. Vic added it is not the HMS Diana.

Jim noted he had been taking measurements and making some drawing, but has turned his attention back to documenting the sites through the photo-mosaic process. Vic said he was pleased with Jim’s photographic documentation technique and said it was widely applicable. He suggested that to give Jim’s photo manual wider distribution it could be posted on the Board’s improved website. Marcie asked if she could accompany Jim on a site visit to learn the mosaic technique. Jim was agreeable, but noted she needed good boots. Vic added those flats were very nasty place to work.
Discussion turned to the creation of the photo-mosaic. Kevin asked Jim about the photographic software to stitch the photos together. Jim explained how he creates the mosaic.

Kevin Mooney moved to grant renewal of the Reconnaissance Permit (06-001) held by James M. Karos for his Chelsea Creek site (Revere/Boston) with all standard conditions remaining in effect. Marcie Bilinski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

C. Harry Noyes and Gary Gianotti

Victor reported the Board had received the Reconnaissance Permit renewal application, but had not received the required annual report or renewal fee. He had notified both parties on December 2, 2011, but only heard from Mr. Noyes last week. Mr. Noyes is now aware of this issue. Mr. Noyes is currently in Florida and was planning to return home tomorrow. Mr. Noyes had hoped to get Mr. Gianotti to attend today’s meeting. Neither party was present at today’s meeting.

Marcie Bilinski moved to extend the expiration date of the reconnaissance permit (10-007) held by Harry Noyes and Gary Gianotti until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board with all standard and special conditions remaining in effect. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Kevin Mooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:54 PM. Joe Pelczarski seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone
Director