

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – 25 JANUARY 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Terry French (Designee of John Warner, State Archivist)  
Martha King (Director of DCR Division of Waterways)  
Lenny Loparto (Designee of Brona Simon, State Archaeologist)  
Jonathan Patton (Designee of Brona Simon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)  
Dan Sampson (Designee of Bruce Carlisle, Assistant Director of Coastal Zone Management)  
Victor Mastone, Director (Staff for the Board)  
David Trubey, Deputy Director (Staff for the Board)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Marcie Bilinski (Dive Community Representative)  
Kathleen Dolan (Designee of James Hanlon, Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)  
Brendan Foley (Marine Archaeologist)  
John Hoagland (Dive Community Representative)

**PROCEEDINGS:**

The public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources was convened by the Director, Victor Mastone at 1:32 PM on 25 January 2007 in the CZM Conference Room at 251 Causeway Street in Boston.

Victor introduced Jonathan Patton who would be representing the Massachusetts Historical Commission and Dan Sampson who would be representing the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management in the place of Joe Pelczarski who is on medical leave.

**1. MINUTES**

**A. Minutes 30 November 2006**

Victor asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the public meeting held on 30 November 2006. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes.

Terry French moved to accept the minutes of the 30 November 2006 public meeting. Martha King seconded. Four (4) votes in favor, one (1) abstention (Jonathan Patton). So voted.

**2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Victor reported that in late December he and David Trubey participated in a remote sensing survey conducted by Allen Gontz of the University of Massachusetts at Boston. They were searching for the remains of the *U.S.S. Niagara*. The survey will be the subject of a poster session at the Geological Society of America meetings in Durham, NH this March.

Victor noted that David had participated in the US Minerals Management Services recent stakeholders meeting on alternative energy and alternate uses of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Vic asked David to describe that meeting. David reported that the meeting was part of Minerals Management Service's effort to obtain information in support of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which provides an initiative to facilitate increased alternative energy production on the OCS. The meeting was directed at the various stakeholders and was divided into a two day event with the first day for government agencies and the second for private sector organizations. David stated that the Board had two issues of

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concern that he addressed. First, although the Board was officially invited to participate in the meeting, it was not listed as a stakeholder nor was the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Second, there is a need for more consistency between the survey and site protection standards of the Minerals Management Service and the various coastal states. The latter concern was submitted in writing via email following the meeting. David noted that there seems to be a strong sense that energy development is going to happen on the OCS and there is a need to alleviate the regulatory uncertainty that currently exists for this area.

Victor reported he was continuing to collaborate with the U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office on possible research projects in Massachusetts waters this summer. The purpose is to identify and document sunken USCG assets using their remote sensing equipment and dive teams. The work would provide some training opportunities as well.

Victor reported he was contacted by Reed Lindsey who is a correspondent for National Public Radio's show *Marketplace*. Mr. Lindsey was researching recent treasure salvage operations in Haiti. He had contacted Victor for a more general view of treasure salvage. The segment aired on January 9th and is available in the program archives on NPR's *Marketplace* webpage.

Victor noted that the upcoming Darwin Festival, February 12-16, at Salem State College includes a lecture of interest to the Board by David Robinson. It is on underwater archaeology and is entitled, "Seeing the Forest for the Seas: Recent Approaches to Locating Submerged Settlements in Southern New England."

Victor noted the annual Conference on New England Archaeology will be on April 21st at Old Sturbridge Village. The theme of the meeting will be "Rules of Engagement," presenting case studies on how archaeologists engage a variety of public constituencies in their work. He noted that he will be making a presentation about the SHIPS initiative.

**3. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

There were no Board member reports.

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: OUTREACH**

**A. Society for Historical Archaeology Conference**

Victor reported that he attended the Society for Historical Archaeology's (SHA) 40th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology held on January 10-14, 2007 in Williamsburg, VA. 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. This year's forum was entitled *Government Maritime Managers' Forum XVI: Notice to Mariners*. Approximately fifty people representing state, federal, and foreign government programs participated in the forum. In addition, Victor participated in the annual meeting of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology and SHA UNESCO Committee, as he is a member of both.

**B. Bay State Council of Divers**

Victor reported he attended the meeting of the Bay State Council of Divers on Wednesday, January 24, 2007. There is continuing concern over the dive flag ordinance in Gloucester. The city ordinance is more restrictive than state law and, more importantly, raises major safety concerns for divers. There was an update on the council's plans to continue surveying potential locations for the placement of an artificial reef. They have, also, set the date for their annual Treasure Hunt competition. It will be at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for March 14, 2007.

**C. Groveland Council on Aging**

Victor reported he has been invited by the Groveland Council on Aging to speak at its men's breakfast on February 13, 2007.

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**D. Boston Sea Rovers Annual Underwater Clinic**

Victor informed the Board that the Boston Sea Rovers is holding its 53rd Annual Underwater Clinic on March 3-4th at the Fairmont Copley Hotel in Boston. As it has in past years, the Board will have literature for distribution at the Division of Marine Fisheries booth. Vic said that he and David each planned to attend one day of the clinic. It is a good opportunity to meet with the various dive clubs and organizations that sponsor booths at the clinic.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Bassings Cove Maritime Association**

Victor reported that Bassings Cove Maritime Association (BCMA) submitted its Excavation Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations. Tom Mulloy, Henry Lynch and Debra Jackson were in attendance to represent BCMA. Victor expressed his excitement over a book that Ms. Jackson had produced for Mr. Lynch and Mr. Mulloy which chronicles the project over the years. He noted that it could be produced in large numbers and perhaps marketed as a coffee table book. Ms. Jackson reported that she has been approached by other people who have made the same comment about the book and she is looking into the possibility.

Ms. Jackson stated that 2006 was a good year in the field with the team making numerous dives. On one dive, Mr. Lynch discovered a brass pintle at the site that due to its size, does not appear to be from the *Forest Queen* wreck. The pintle will be conserved and put on display at the Scituate Maritime Museum. Ms. Jackson stated that she has continued working on the educational/outreach aspect of the project. She recently researched the Massachusetts Department of Education's (DOE) curriculum standards for history, specifically for the third grade level. She noted that the curriculum centers on Massachusetts history and incorporates the histories of local towns. This aspect of the curriculum seems to fit well with the *Forest Queen* project as the DOE expects children to visit their local museums and learn about the history of their own towns. Ms. Jackson described how students involved with the *Forest Queen* project learn about artifacts from the site and are encouraged to participate in the conservation work in the laboratory. She added that students are given the opportunity to hold the artifacts and discuss the possibilities as to who was holding them when the *Forest Queen* sank in 1853. She noted that it is a nice image for the students and even better in the fact that no one perished in the *Forest Queen's* sinking. There is also a drawing portion of the BCMA's lesson plan in which students draw what they would expect to see on the ocean bottom if they were scuba diving beneath Minot's Light. Ms. Jackson presented the Board with a copy of her research on the DOE curriculum.

Mr. Lynch continued discussing BCMA's education program and reported that Ms. Jackson was invited by Delta Kappa Gamma, an international organization that promotes professionalism and personal growth for women educators. The organization was so impressed with Ms. Jackson's work on the *Forest Queen* education/outreach program and the way in which it motivates students to learn, it invited her to become a member. Mr. Lynch noted that Ms. Jackson is the first school nurse to be admitted into the society. He added that the *Forest Queen* education program falls into the concept of "science across the curriculum" on many levels and that Ms. Jackson has also been presenting to graduate students. Victor congratulated Ms. Jackson on her membership into Delta Kappa Gamma.

Lenny Loparto asked how the students' work in the laboratory on the concretions is going. Ms. Jackson replied that it is going well, but that despite all the preparation and precautions, the students do get dirty. This aspect of the program is for those students who don't mind the mess and using their hands. Lenny asked how many students at a time are working in the lab. She replied some times there are as many as ten to fifteen, but the exercise works best with eight to ten students. With the smaller groups, it is easier to monitor the students and offer them more attention. She explained they get very excited when they find something in the concretions and are eager to show the instructors. Ms. Jackson would stated she would like to see BCMA's program open up to the Boy and Girl Scouts because she feels the activities would be appropriate for the various merit badges the Scouts are constantly working towards. Mr. Lynch added that the kids get very excited when they return to the museum after their laboratory experience and see the artifacts they were working with on display. Ms. Jackson would also like to have the laboratory open during the summer so the graduate students with whom she has been working can take part in the exercise.

Lenny Loparto 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

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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. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**B. James M. Karos**

Victor reported that James Karos submitted his Reconnaissance Permit renewal application and Annual Report in accordance with the Board's regulations for his site in Chelsea Creek. Mr. Karos was in attendance to represent his application.

Mr. Karos presented the latest version of his photo mosaic, which was viewed with much amazement by the Board members. He stated that of the 480 photographs he has taken of the wreck over the past year, approximately seventy to eighty line up well enough to form the image. He pointed out some of the site details and structural features to the Board and conveyed his plans to make a line drawing of the site using trilateration in order to gain experience in this technique. He noted that he has the photo mosaic on laser disk and will be burning another copy on CD. Additionally, he has maintained a record of all the photographs he has taken and will eventually list which of the photographs actually comprise the photo mosaic. Mr. Karos added that he would like to use the same technique he has developed for other wrecks at the site. He noted that he believes the location might have been a breaking yard at one time. Victor pointed out for those Board members who are not familiar with the location of this wreck, that the site can be described as a multi-component disposal area in Chelsea Creek. Victor also noted that although he has visited the site several times, he has never seen ballast stones which are clearly visible in the photo mosaic.

Mr. Karos reported that he has been researching some of the shipyards that were located on Chelsea Creek. He is beginning to think that this wreck was once a coal schooner barge and that it was perhaps abandoned at the site when oil replaced coal as a fuel of choice. He would like to find more documentation on the site and is planning to publish his mosaic and an article on the project in the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society's newsletter. He added that he would like to take some wood samples of the keelson and have them analyzed by a dendrochronology laboratory as a means of dating the vessel. He is also considering having some of the ballast stones analyzed to determine their possible origin. He recognizes that ballast stones were frequently moved from one ship to another, but is hoping that some of the original stones that were loaded when the vessel was constructed are still in place. He noted that he would only do these things with the permission and support of the Board.

Terry French asked Mr. Karos if he has shown the image to the staff of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum and if so, did they think it might represent an Essex schooner. Mr. Karos replied that at the time he visited the museum, he only had part of the mosaic completed. The museum staff was very interested in what they saw, but it was not enough for them to make such a determination. He stated that he and the museum staff discussed the idea of examining the list of Essex-built schooners for known disposal and sinking locations to see if there might be a match or at least to narrow the list of possibilities to some extent. He is planning to show the image to Harold Berman to get his thoughts on the vessel's design. Additionally, he has been corresponding with the San Francisco Maritime Museum to see if the ship might have been constructed on the west coast. He noted that he would love to prove that the vessel was built in Essex.

Lenny Loparto asked Mr. Karos if he has come across any shipwright's marks on the vessel remains. Mr. Karos replied that he has not come across anything that resembles such marks and wonders if the wood comprising the wreck is too far eroded or if any timbers with maker's marks are buried in the mud. He noted that he has found some pieces of coal around the wreck, which might support the idea that the vessel was a coal barge. Victor pointed out that the site is also adjacent to the railroad tracks so the coal might be the result of train traffic.

Mr. Karos estimated the wreck to be about 130 feet by twenty-six feet based on the mosaic. He noted that the wreck is splaying a bit and the remains are primarily the lower futtocks so it is probable that the ship was wider. He went on to describe the design of his photographic platform which is essentially a large ladder equipped with outriggers to prevent it from tipping. At the top of the ladder, there is a long two by four to which the camera attaches. When he is ready to take a photograph, he sets the camera's timer for ten seconds, slides the two by four over the site from the top of the ladder. After the photograph is taken, he slides the two by four back in, checks the quality of the photograph, moves the two by four over a bit and takes the next photograph. After four or five photographs have been taken, he then moves the entire rig approximately six feet and repeats the process.

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Regarding Mr. Karos's request for permission to take wood samples from the wreck and remove a sample of ballast stones, Victor stated that the wood samples are less problematic. He pointed out that Mr. Karos would require the services of a qualified marine archaeologist in order to excavate any ballast stones. He also urged against excavation at this time due to the level of pollution at the site. The Board could condition the renewal of his permit to allow for the collection of wood samples under the supervision of its staff. Victor stated that the photo mosaic is very impressive and that Mr. Karos's research seems to be getting better and better. Lenny Loparto added his support to Mr. Karos's efforts in developing a non-intrusive technique to document this site and noted that his technical capabilities have also improved over the course of the year. Mr. Karos stated that he has received a lot of good advice from members of the Board and others.

Lenny Loparto moved to renew Reconnaissance Permit (06-001) held by James M. Karos for his Chelsea Creek site (Revere/Boston) with all standard conditions in effect and the further condition that the permittee may collect wood samples under appropriate supervision for dendrochronological purposes. Terry French seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Annex Rules to the UNESCO Convention**

Victor thanked the Board for its support in passing a resolution adopting the ICOMOS Charter at the November 2006 Board meeting. He reported that the Board's action was warmly received and heavily praised at the recent SHA UNESCO Committee (of which I am a member) in Williamsburg. Victor stated that he was asked by the Committee if the Board might consider taking the additional step of endorsing the Annex Rules to the UNESCO Convention as best management practice. He reminded the Board that the ICOMOS Charter is the basis for the Annex Rules, which consisted of nearly identical language.

Given that the Board has already adopted the ICOMOS Charter, Victor asked the Board to consider passing a resolution regarding the UNESCO Annex. Victor proposed that rather than "adopting" the Annex as it did with the Charter, the Board simply "endorse" the Annex. He emphasized that he is not asking the Board to consider an endorsement of the UNESCO Convention itself.

Terry French moved: It is resolved that the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources endorses the Annex to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), based on the ICOMOS Charter on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage (1996), as best management practice and encourages the timely adoption of its Rules and Principles into provisions and guidelines of all programs involved in the management of underwater cultural heritage, to the extent compatible with applicable state and federal law. Martha King seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So resolved.

Dan Sampson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 PM. Lenny Loparto seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor T. Mastone  
Director