MEMBERS PRESENT (ROLL CALL):

- Jack Chapin (Designee of the Director of Environmental Law Enforcement)
- Michael Driscoll (Designee, Director of DCR Division of Waterways)
- Vincent Malkoski (Dive Community Representative [Organization])
- Mark McClanan (Dive Community Representative [At-Large])
- Graham McKay (Marine Archaeologist)
- Jonathan Patton (Designee of Brona Simon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission)
- John Warner (State Archivist)
- David Robinson, Director (Staff for the Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Brona Simon (State Archaeologist)
- Dan Sampson (Designee of Lisa Berry Engler, Director of Coastal Zone Management)

PROCEEDINGS:

This virtual public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR or Board) was convened by its Director, David Robinson (Dave R), with the assistance of co-host, MassBays Executive Director, Pam DiBona, at 12:31 PM on May 27, 2021, with a quorum of seven (7) current members of the BUAR in attendance.

Dave R stated the purpose of this regularly-scheduled public meeting was to conduct the BUAR’s business requiring the involvement of the full Board.

Items on today’s agenda include:

- Approval of the March 25, 2021 BUAR meeting’s minutes
- Director’s report
- Board Member reports
- Summary of the BUAR’s Public Engagement Activities
- Old Business, and
- New Business.

Dave R explained that BUAR staff have been working remotely since March 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All BUAR business and communications are currently being conducted primarily via email, supplemented by virtual meetings, limited phone calls, US Postal Service mailings, and weekly transmittals of BUAR mail from MA Coast Zone Management’s (CZM) offices to BUAR’s remote work location. Holding BUAR’s meetings virtually through publicly-available internet-based “Zoom” technology as an alternative means of meeting was authorized by Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law (Massachusetts General Law [MGL] c. 30A, s. 20). Votes during virtual meetings are taken through a roll call, as required by MGL c. 30A, ss. 18-25. Virtual-meeting ground-rules were reviewed by Dave R and all of the Board members, permittees, and members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. MINUTES

A. Minutes of the March 25, 2021 Meeting of the Board

Dave R asked if the Board had any comments or corrections to the minutes of the Board’s public meeting of March 25, 2021. There were no comments or corrections to the minutes. Graham McKay moved to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2021 public meeting as written. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous vote in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.
2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dave R noted that two items (items A and B below) were inadvertently excluded from the previous meeting's Director's Report.

A. Communications, Coordination, and Jurisdictional Authority for BUAR-Permitted Projects within the Quarter-Mile Offshore Administrative Boundary of the Cape Cod National Seashore (CACO)

Dave R reported that between January and March of 2021, BUAR staff participated in multiple discussions with the Regulatory Branch of the New England District US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE-NAE) and the National Park Service's (NPS) staff from the CACO, their North Atlantic-Appalachian Interior Region 1 office, and their Submerged Resources Center. The purpose of these discussions was to open new and broadened lines of communication between the BUAR, the ACOE-NAE, and the NPS and to establish a standard approach for interagency coordination on BUAR-permitted projects within the submerged state lands portion of the administrative boundaries of the CACO. These conversations were stimulated by BUAR permittee Gary Esper's ACOE-NAE permit renewal application. The western edges of Mr. Esper's two permit areas extend into the CACO's quarter-mile offshore administrative boundary.

Several goals were accomplished as a result of these discussions. Moving forward, BUAR and its permittees will expand their communication and coordination to include the aforementioned regional and national NPS offices, along with the CACO staff with whom BUAR and its permittees regularly coordinate. This expanded communication/coordination will occur whenever BUAR is considering or permitting work, or its permittees are conducting BUAR-permitted work, within the submerged state lands portion of the park's administrative boundaries (e.g., within the CACO's quarter-mile offshore administrative boundary). This expanded communication and coordination with the ACOE-NAE and NPS is consistent with the BUAR's statutory charge under MGL c. 6, s. 180(2) to "cooperate and consult with appropriate federal agencies."

Further, because the NPS has regulatory authority, under 36 CFR ss. 1.1 and 1.2 (federal law establishing the NPS within the US Department of the Interior [DOI]), over the water-sheet covering the submerged state lands within the CACO's administrative boundaries (including the quarter-mile offshore boundary where BUAR has regulatory authority), BUAR permittees working on submerged state lands within the CACO's administrative boundaries are required to obtain an NPS Research Permit, in addition to their BUAR permit and other federal and state permits that are necessary to obtain, prior to initiating fieldwork.

This additional oversight and permitting from the NPS will help better ensure that the underwater archaeological work conducted by BUAR permittees within the CACO will be conducted in manner that is optimal for the resource and is consistent with the BUAR’s statutory charge under MGL c. 6, s. 180, to “protect and preserve historical, scientific and archaeological information about underwater archaeological resources located within the inland and coastal waters of the Commonwealth.”

In addition, the NPS/CACO offered to host in its public facilities and incorporate into its educational programing public lectures and exhibits by BUAR and its permittees who are working within the CACO. This offer to feature BUAR and their permittees' work in the NPS/CACO’s visitor center and educational programming represents an extraordinary opportunity to reach some of the 3.9-million people who visit the CACO each year. It also assists the BUAR in meeting its statutory charge for permitting under MGL c. 91, s. 63, and BUAR’s permittees’ regulatory permitting requirement under 312 CMR 2.0, to conduct operations involving underwater archaeological resources that are “in the public’s interest.”

B. Bourne Shipwreck Impacted by Osprey Nesting Platform

Dave R reported that in February of 2021, BUAR staff was contacted by a commercial fisher whose access to his permitted aquaculture area in Bourne was restricted during the previous year by the presence of ospreys roosting on an unusually short and unauthorized nesting-platform. The platform was installed by
an unidentified party, without local or state authorization or a BUAR permit, onto the structure of a partially-submerged wooden shipwreck located immediately adjacent to the aquaculture area. Between February and March 2021, BUAR staff coordinated with MA Environmental Police, MA Coastal Zone Management (CZM), MA Audubon, the ACOE-NAE’s Regulatory Branch, MA Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF), and the Bourne Department of Natural Resources (Bourne DNR) to resolve the issue. The unauthorized/unpermitted platform was removed prior to the return of ospreys to the region and the issue was resolved.

C. BUAR Presentation to CZM Leadership and Staff

Dave R reported that on March 29, 2021, BUAR staff gave a virtual presentation on BUAR and submerged paleolandscapes to CZM’s leadership and staff. The purposes of the presentation were to enhance the awareness of BUAR’s administrative host, CZM, about the scope of BUAR’s work, and to provide insights on one of the more recently recognized significant underwater cultural site types – submerged paleolandscapes – that are increasingly being identified in the waters of the Commonwealth as a result of Tribal engagement and the large-scale BUAR-permitted marine archaeological surveys that are being conducted in MA waters for the offshore renewable energy industry as part of the environmental review and permitting processes for these projects.

D. On-Site Meeting with Weymouth Police Department

Dave R reported that on April 5, 2021, BUAR staff participated in an on-site meeting with BUAR permittee Robert Wells and the Weymouth Police Department’s Lt. Brian Morse and Jack O’Rourke (WPD Marine Unit) and WPD’s Natural Resources Officer, Michael Parker, to discuss Mr. Well’s project and site security concerns. Weymouth’s Harbormaster duties are currently being handled by the Weymouth Police Department’s Marine Unit under the leadership of Lt. Morse, following significant personnel changes in the Harbormaster’s Office. BUAR staff arranged the meeting in response to the concerns Mr. Wells expressed to the Board about his site’s security. BUAR staff coordinated with Lt. Morse and Officers O’Rourke and Parker before and after the meeting and provided them with digital copies of BUAR’s regulations and the relevant enforceable statutes. Mr. Wells explained his concerns were primarily associated with unauthorized digging and artifact recovery and potential bottom disturbances from jet-skis. Although Officer Parker assessed the potential threats as minimal based on the activities that he’s observed on his regular patrols of the area, Lt. Morse stated they would pay closer attention to activities taking place within Mr. Wells’s permit area during their land and water patrols and would investigate any suspicious or illegal activity they observed or encountered and coordinate their response with the BUAR.

E. USCG-Sector Boston’s Virtual Plymouth-to-Salisbury Area Committee Spring Meeting

Dave R reported that on April 28, 2021, BUAR staff was an invited participant in the US Coast Guard (USCG)-Sector Boston’s Virtual Plymouth-to-Salisbury Area Committee’s Spring Meeting. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 requires each USCG Captain-of-the-Port (COTP), the lead federal official for pollution response in the Coastal Zone, to co-chair (along with state environmental partners) an Area Committee consisting of representatives from Federal, State, and local government. Industry, port partners, academia, environmental groups, and other non-government organizations are also important Committee members. The Boston Area Committee produces and maintains Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) describing the strategy for a coordinated federal, state, and local response to a discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance within a COTP Zone. Information presented at the meeting included agency updates, a discussion regarding upcoming PREP exercises, and information on the ongoing Plymouth-to-Salisbury Area Contingency Plan update. Commander Jesse Diaz from the USCG-District 1 Incident Management Branch (DRM) presented on the USCG and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) RULE T-Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats Program and the lightering of over 476,000 gallons of oil from the sunken WWII wreck MV Coimbra. Incoming Boston COTP, Captain Kailie Benson, and Steve Lehmann’s replacement, Mr. William Whitmore, also participated in the meeting.
F. MAS Special Meeting Re: Changes to Bylaws

Dave R reported that on May 1, 2021, BUAR staff attended a special meeting of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (MAS) to vote on proposed changes to the MAS bylaws. The vote to make all of the proposed changes passed with unanimous consent of the MAS membership in attendance. Former BUAR director Vic Mastone is currently serving a two-year term as the new President of the MAS.

G. Telecom with MA State Archivist re: BUAR Files Management

Dave R reported that on May 19, 2021 BUAR staff spoke with MA State Archivist and Board Member, John Warner, about the management of BUAR’s files and archives. This conversation took place in preparation for the planned move of CZM/BUAR’s offices as part of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ (EEA) consolidation of its Downtown Metro-Boston area offices into the 100 Cambridge Street/Saltonstall Building and the State Transportation Building sometime in 2022. Dr. Warner provided overviews of the MA State Archives and schedule for document retention, as well as some very helpful basic information on how to begin to organize files, what constitutes appropriate file destruction procedures, and some of the benefits of digital record keeping and use.

H. WHOI-DMF-SBNMS-BUAR Sea Grant Proposal Update

Dave R reported that the Woods Hole Sea Grant program’s technical review panel accepted the pre-proposal for the project “Artificial reefs as fish habitats in Cape Cod and Massachusetts Bays” that BUAR is partnering on with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) (with WHOI’s Dr. Kirstin Meyer-Kaiser serving as lead PI), and recommended the team submit a full-proposal. A draft of the full proposal was prepared for submittal to Sea Grant on May 28, 2021. If awarded, BUAR will be contributing to the project’s public outreach component through our public education program and via links to project updates and reports that will be added to the BUAR website’s “News Articles, Publications, and Online Media” section.

I. Ada K. Damon Shipwreck Site Monitoring Update

Dave R reported that on May 2, 2021, BUAR staff conducted a reconnaissance site visit at the Castle Hill Trustees of Reservations Property in Ipswich to examine the current condition of the Ada K. Damon shipwreck site. The site visit was performed in preparation for conducting the first of several periodic aerial photography surveys of the overall site to document changes to it over time. The condition of the site was found to have changed dramatically since last fall’s fieldwork by BUAR. Only two loose timber assemblages from the shipwreck were visible at the foot the dunes high up on the beach. The two halves of the bottom of the hull that had been connected at the bow are now detached from each other and separated by a distance of approximately 200 m. The only other portion of the wreck that was observed and is still visible on the beach was the cast iron galley stove. Weather permitting, BUAR volunteer and licensed drone pilot, Chris Wright, and BUAR staff will be conducting aerial photography fieldwork at the site again on May 30, 2021.

J. MA Ocean Management Plan

Dave R reported that BUAR staff has continued to be involved in the work on CZM’s 2021 MA Ocean Management Plan (OMP) update, and this month prepared revised draft text for two chapters of the OMP’s Baseline Assessment and Science Framework volume. Work on the 2021 OMP update is anticipated to continue through the summer and be completed this Fall.

K. Comments and Concerns RE: Activity on BUAR Permits

Dave R reported that the Board was contacted by a prospective permittee who was interested in applying for a permit for an area that would overlap with the buffer zone of an existing permit. The prospective permittee noted that there appears to have been no activity in this existing permit area over the
last several years and that they had the impression that the Board was allowing its permittees to retain permits for long periods of time without being held accountable for inactivity. The prospective permittee also expressed concern that they and others who may have greater capacity to conduct substantive site work in the public's interest were being prevented from having that opportunity by this inactivity among some BUAR permittees.

Dave R reviewed with the Board the relevant sections of BUAR’s regulations and noted the Board’s specific review criteria regarding activity and work plans. BUAR Regulations are clear regarding the requirements for:

a) proposed project work plans that are appropriate and in the public’s interest;
b) all elements of the work plan to be performed as approved by the Board, and;
c) a "lack of activity" being a cause for modifying, suspending, or revoking a permit.

These requirements are articulated in BUAR Regulations 312 CMR 2.08(2) – Permit Application Review and Notification: Review Criteria:

“The review criteria include, but are not limited to, demonstrable proof of the presence of a resource, the qualifications and past performance of project personnel, the appropriateness of the proposed project plan, techniques, procedures and methodologies, a demonstration of the applicant’s financial ability to carry the project plan to completion, evidence that the operations desired involve underwater archaeological resources, and evidence that said operations are in the public interest.”

They are also articulated in BUAR Regulations 312 CMR 2.09(1) – Permittee Activities and Responsibilities: General Standards for all Permits:

“Permittees shall be expected to perform all elements of the work plan as approved by the Board…”

And finally, they are articulated in BUAR Regulations 312 CMR 2.12 – Permit Suspension, Modification or Revocation:

“A permit may be modified, suspended or revoked for cause, including but not limited to, presentation or discovery of new evidence, violation of the law or of 312 CMR 2.00, violation of any of the terms or conditions of the permit, obtaining the permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose all relevant facts, lack of activity, or activity that jeopardizes underwater archaeological resources.”

Dave R acknowledged that while ongoing health concerns and federal- and state-mandated restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic of the past 18 months were unforeseen obstacles that prevented many permittees from conducting planned activities in their permit areas during that period, more careful assessment and monitoring of work plans, work plan performance, and permit-related activity should resume being an element of the Board's review of permit renewals once the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated health risks and restrictions end.

Dave R then yielded the floor to the Board for further discussion. This discussion resulted in the development of the following action items to address the comments and concerns of the prospective permittee and of the Board:

- Permittees will be strongly encouraged by the Board’s staff to attend BUAR's public meetings when they have business before the Board; and
- Permittees will be advised by the Board staff and/or Board about the importance of submitting annual work plans with realistic goals and tasks that are accomplishable within a permit year, and that the degree to which these work plans are accomplished and the amount of activity
that does or does not take place within their permit area(s) will be criteria that are reviewed critically and considered carefully by the Board during the permit renewal process, as is required by the Board’s existing regulations.

3. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

There were no Board member reports.

4. **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

   **A. Norwalk Community College Archaeology Club Virtual Lecture**

   On May 13, 2021, BUAR staff presented the virtual lecture “Sea Level Rise and Its Impact on Coastal Archaeological Sites” to the Archaeology Club of Norwalk Community College.

   **B. Green Jacket Shoal Ship Graveyard Tours**

   On May 22, 2021, BUAR staff narrated two Providence River Boat Company boat-based tours of a nineteenth century ship graveyard and maritime cultural landscape located at the mouth of the Seekonk/Blackstone River.

   **C. Dedham Retired Men’s Club Virtual Lecture**

   On May 28, BUAR staff will be presenting a virtual lecture to the Dedham Retired Men’s Club on the sinking and recovery of the USS Submarine S-4 off Provincetown, MA.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

   **A. Neil Good**

   Neil Good’s Reconnaissance Permit (19-002) for his Waquoit Bay site in Falmouth and Mashpee was up for renewal. Mr. Good contacted the Board to request that they extend the expiration date of his permit until the Board’s next regularly scheduled meeting on September 30, 2021. It has been the Board’s practice to grant up to two extensions under these circumstances. This would be the permit’s first extension.

   Mr. Good was in attendance to represent this permit. He reported that he had coordinated with the staffs of the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNRR) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and was planning to conduct fieldwork in the near future using an underwater camera and lighting rig that he had described in previous meetings. Mr. Good also reported that he had been conducting research on a 1942 rumrunner lost in the Waquoit Bay and conducting interviews of veterans who had been stationed on Washburn Island during WW II. There was no further discussion.

   Vincent Malkoski moved to extend the expiration date of Mr. Good’s Reconnaissance Permit (19-002) for his Waquoit Bay Site in Falmouth and Mashpee with all standard and special conditions in effect until the next meeting of the Board on September 30, 2021. John Warner seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

   **B. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.**

   R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.’s (RCGA’s) Special Use Permit (17-001) for the Bay State Wind Project area in Falmouth and Somerset is up for renewal today. RCGA contacted BUAR staff to inform them that the permit will be allowed to expire naturally as of today. BUAR staff will follow up with RCGA to request any data that is available from the survey for its files.
C. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

RCGA’s Special Use Permit (20-001) for the Mayflower Wind Project area in Nantucket Sound was up for renewal. RCGA contacted BUAR staff to request the Board extend the expiration date of their permit until the Board’s next regularly scheduled meeting on September 30, 2021 to accommodate pending changes to their project personnel and project scope. It has been the Board’s practice to grant up to two extensions under these circumstances. This would be the permit’s first extension.

RCGA’s Nautical Division’s Vice President, Steve Schmidt, was in attendance to represent this permit. He confirmed that changes to RCGA’s project personnel had been made and that those changes and the anticipated changes to the project scope would be incorporated into RCGA’s renewal application, which they plan to submit in August (2021). There was no further discussion.

Michael Driscoll moved to extend the expiration date of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.’s Special Use Permit (20-001) for their Mayflower Wind Project area in Nantucket Sound with all standard and special conditions in effect until the next regularly-scheduled public meeting of the Board on September 30, 2021. Vincent Malkoski seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

D. Raymond Hayes

Dr. Raymond L. Hayes’s Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) for his Great Harbor Site in Woods Hole was up for renewal. Dr. Hayes submitted a completed renewal application, fee, and annual report in accordance with the Board’s regulations. Dr. Hayes was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Jack Chapin moved to renew Raymond Hayes’s Reconnaissance Permit (07-001) for his Great Harbor Site in Woods Hole, with all the standard and special conditions in effect for the period of one year from today’s date. Mike Driscoll seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll call vote. So voted.

E. Nipmuc Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Nipmuc Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office’s Reconnaissance Permit (01-001) for their Lake Quinsigamond Site in Shrewsbury and Worcester was up for renewal. The Project Director Ms. Cheryl Stedtler submitted a completed renewal application, fee and Annual Report in accordance with the Board’s regulations. Ms. Stedtler was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Vincent Malkoski moved to renew Nipmuc Nation’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office’s Reconnaissance Permit (01-001) for their Lake Quinsigamond Site in Shrewsbury and Worcester, with all the standard and special conditions in effect for the period of one year from today’s date. John Warner seconded. Unanimous by a roll call vote. So voted.

F. North Atlantic Dive Expeditions

North Atlantic Dive Expeditions’ (NADE) Reconnaissance Permit (17-004) for their Gloucester site was up for renewal. NADE’s Ms. Heather Knowles contacted the BUAR to request the Board extend the expiration date of their permit until the Board’s next regularly scheduled meeting on September 30, 2021. It has been the Board’s practice to grant up to two extensions under these circumstances. This would be the permit’s first extension. Ms. Knowles was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Michael Driscoll moved to extend the expiration date of North Atlantic Dive Expeditions’ Reconnaissance Permit (17-004) for their Gloucester Site with all standard and special conditions in effect until the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board on September 30, 2021. Jack Chapin seconded. Unanimous by a roll-call vote. So voted.
G. Victor Ricardo

Victor Ricardo’s Reconnaissance Permit (94-001) for his Salisbury Site was up for renewal. Mr. Ricardo contacted the Board to request the Board extend the expiration date of his permit until the Board’s next regularly-scheduled meeting on September 30, 2021. It has been the Board’s practice to grant up to two extensions under these circumstances. This would be the permit’s first extension. Mr. Ricardo was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Vincent Malkoski moved to extend the expiration date of Mr. Ricardo’s Reconnaissance Permit (94-001) for his Salisbury Site with all standard and special conditions in effect until the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board on September 30, 2021. Michael Driscoll seconded. Unanimous by a roll call vote. So voted.

H. J. Nicholas Snyer

J. Nicholas Snyer’s Excavation Permit (11-002) for his Gloucester site in Gloucester was up for renewal. Mr. Snyer had not submitted his renewal application or communicated with BUAR regarding this permit’s renewal. It has been the Board’s practice to grant up to two extensions under these circumstances. This will be the permit’s first extension. Neither Mr. Snyer, nor his Project Director, Gary Esper, was in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Graham McKay moved to grant an extension of the expiration date of J. Nicholas Snyer’s Excavation Permit (11-002) for his Gloucester site, with all the standard and special conditions in effect, until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on September 30, 2021. Vincent Malkoski seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

I. Robert Wells

Robert Wells’s Reconnaissance Permit (18-001) for his Kings Cove site in Weymouth was up for renewal today. Mr. Wells contacted the Board to request the Board extend the expiration date of his permit until the Board’s next regularly-scheduled meeting on September 30, 2021. It has been the Board’s practice to grant up to two extensions under these circumstances. This would be the permit’s first extension. Mr. Wells was not in attendance to represent this permit. There was no further discussion.

Vincent Malkoski moved to extend the expiration date of Mr. Well’s Reconnaissance Permit (18-001) for his Kings Cove site in Weymouth with all standard and special conditions in effect until the next meeting of the Board on September 30, 2021. Michael Driscoll seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fairhaven Historical Commission (FHC) Isolated Find No. 2021-IF-001

Dave R reported that on May 5, 2021, the Board received an Isolated Find Exemption application from the FHC requesting the transfer of title from the state to the FHC of a large historical iron-stocked anchor. The anchor was recovered during the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (US EPA) remediation activities in the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site (NBHSS) as an unanticipated discovery in 2015. The US EPA is winding down its remediation activities within the NBHSS and asked for the BUAR’s assistance in identifying a long-term repository for the anchor. The anchor (“Anchor C”) was one of three inspected and documented by BUAR staff in November of 2020. Working with CZM’s South Coastal Regional Coordinator, Dave Janik, and the Town of Fairhaven’s Director of Planning & Economic Development, Paul Foley, the FHC was identified as the best candidate for the anchor’s long-term curation and exhibition for the public’s benefit. The FHC plans to clean, paint, and transfer the anchor to Fairhaven’s Cook Park where it can be displayed in memory of Captain William Whitfield and enjoyed by the public.
Captain Whitfield was the mid-nineteenth century master of the Fairhaven whaling ship, John Howland, from whose life was inextricably linked to that of a formerly shipwrecked 14-yr old Japanese fisher, Manjiro, who Captain Whitfield rescued (along with Manjiro’s four brothers) from being marooned on Torishima Island in 1843. Four of the brothers were dropped off on Oahu, while Manjiro agreed to be brought back to America in 1843. While in America, Manjiro received a formalized Western education in advanced mathematics, navigation and surveying. In 1852, Manjiro returned to Japan. At the time, Japan had been closed to the outside world for over 200 years. Possessing what was deemed in Japan to be extraordinary knowledge about the West and the ability to speak English, Manjiro was shortly thereafter appointed as a samurai in the direct service of the Shogun, and later went on to play an indirect role in the opening of Japan to the West and the rest of the world.

Among his other many accomplishments, Manjiro: 1) translated Bowditch’s “The New American Practical Navigator” into Japanese; 2) became a Professor of Navigation at the Japanese Naval Training School; 3) wrote a book: “Eibe Taiwa Shokei” (or “A shortcut to Anglo-American Conversation”), which was the first English text published in Japan; 4) initiated the first modern whaling industry in Japan based on his experiences whaling with Captain Whitfield; 5) was the official translator for the delegation that crossed the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco on the Kanrin-maru (the first Japanese ship to do so); and 6) was appointed professor at Kaisei Univ., which later became known as Tokyo Imperial University.

Manjiro returned to Fairhaven in 1870 to visit with Captain Whitfield for the last time. Manjiro suffered a stroke in 1871 and died in Tokyo in 1898 at the age of 71. In 1987, a delegation from New Bedford/Fairhaven traveled to Manjiro’s home town of Tosa-shimizu to sign a sister-city agreement that still remains active. In 2008, Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara led a fund-raising effort to buy and restore Captain Whitfield’s home in Fairhaven. In 2009, Dr. Hinohara brought 100 donors from Japan to dedicate the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship House, Museum, and Cultural Center, which is visited by thousands of Japanese guests each year. The entire parcel of land at the center was donated to Fairhaven on the condition that the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society operate the museum and cultural center.

Dave R asked that the Board give positive consideration of the FHC’s request. There was no further discussion.

Michael Driscoll moved to grant the FHC’s request and waive the Board’s jurisdiction over Isolated Find No. 2021-IF-001, an iron ship’s anchor, recovered in Fairhaven waters of New Bedford Harbor within the NBHSS, and relinquish all rights, title and interest to the isolated find to the Fairhaven Historical Commission. Vincent Malkoski seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll call vote. So voted.

Dave R invited the participating members of the public to use Zoom’s chat function to ask any questions that they may have had about any of the agenda items from today’s meeting. There were no questions.

Dave R reminded attendees that with the end of this meeting, the Board was entering its period of summer hiatus from regular scheduled meetings, and that the next scheduled public meeting of the Board would not be until 12:30 pm on September 30, 2021. Dave R noted that it was uncertain whether the next meeting would be held via remote-access or in person. He encouraged permittees and interested members of the public to monitor the BUAR webpage’s Public Meetings Information section for updates, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

Dave R thanked meeting participants for their attendance and participation in the meeting and extended special thanks to Ms. DiBona for co-hosting and to the Board for their continued effort, cooperation, and patience during these challenging times. He wished everyone continued good health and safety.
Graham McKay moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 pm. Vincent Malkoski seconded. Unanimous in favor by a roll-call vote. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Robinson
Director