



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
September 6, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance:

Stephen Brighton, Marian Creveling, Jane Cox, Dave Gadsby, Don Housley, Bob Wall

Staff in Attendance:

Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Matt McKnight, Zac Singer, Stephanie Soder

The meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Review of the June 21, 2023, MACA meeting minutes:

The June 21, 2023, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Stephen Brighton; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Transition of Chair duties to Stephen Brighton — Jane Cox

Jane Cox reminded the committee of her resolve to step down after 11 years serving as the chair of MACA and noted the committee's prior action to appoint Dr. Stephen Brighton to the position of chair. The committee thanked Jane for her service and Chair Brighton took over directing the remainder of the meeting.

Welcome of new MACA Member David Gadsby — Stephen Brighton

Chair Brighton provided a brief professional biography and introduced the committee's new member, Dr. David Gadsby. David is an archaeologist with the National Park Service's Northeast Regional Office. The committee welcomed Dr. Gadsby. Dave will be replacing Joy Beasley, whose term expired on July 1.

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes reported that she would be reaching out to Dr. McKnight regarding new appointments and reappointments to the Advisory Committee in November. Both new and returning members will be required to submit materials through the Governor's Appointments Portal.

Preparation of the FY25 budget is underway and is due to the Department of Budget and Management by the end of the month. The Department is expected to request support for various initiatives above the current budget target such as contractual conversions - the success of those requests will not be known until the Governor's budget is released in January of 2024.

MHT is aware of only one legislative initiative that is expected to impact the MHT Office of Archaeology. MHT understands that Senator Simonaire may be developing a cemetery preservation bill which would, among other things, create a Cemetery Advisory Board for Regulatory Oversight of Historic and Inactive Cemeteries, to be staffed by MHT.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reported that since the last MACA meeting, our Summer Intern Jack Candiotti, completed his internship and left for a job with Heritage Consultants in Connecticut.

In July, the Governor's Office reached out to MHT about renewed interest on the part of the state-recognized Piscataway tribes in repatriation of Potomac Creek in the care and custody of MHT. A letter was sent to the Piscataway Indian Nation, the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe and the affiliated Choptico and Cedarville bands outlining the process that would be involved under federal law. The letters also invited them to a meeting on the issue, but we have not yet received any responses.

MHT is also participating in continued discussions with the MCAAHC concerning remains of potential African descent held by MHT. Zac and Elizabeth attended a meeting of the full Commission on August 7, and Matt, Zac, and Elizabeth will all be attending the first meeting of a sub-committee formed to deal with this issue on Friday, 9/8.

MHT continues to make steady progress on Standards and Guidelines revisions. Three chapter layouts are completed and two more chapters are nearing completion, with others just getting started.

On July 26, MHT received word that our application to the American Battlefield Protection Program was selected for funding. This grant will help fund survey and excavation work in Harford and Cecil counties related to the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route and we held a startup meeting with NPS on August 8.

In addition, over July and August we worked with the Northeast Regional Archaeology Office of NPS to pull together a cooperative agreement related to fieldwork at the Jacob Jackson Homesite, a large portion of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park (HATU) that was historically the home of one of Tubman's informants and helpers in bringing the enslaved to freedom. That work will involve some remote sensing, controlled metal detection, and shovel testing and we held our first Startup meeting with NPS last Thursday (8/31).

Our ARPA permit for work in western Maryland is moving forward. Josh Torres (NPS) requested some maps and our prospective dates for fieldwork at 18AG9 so that he could complete processing it. We tentatively have fieldwork scheduled for the week of October 16-20.

Matt reported on the current status of the FY24 Historic Preservation Non-Cap Grant round. Full applications were due on August 1st. MHT received 25 complete application packages, 10 of which contained proposals that included archaeology. In total MHT had nearly 1.3 million in requested funding, and there is only \$300,000 available annually in the fund, with demand far outstripping available money.

Staff held their review and ranking meeting on 9/5 and will be bringing formal recommendations to the MHT Board at their next meeting in October.

The design of Dennis Curry's *Canavest* book is done and MHT Press now has a contract with a printer in place. It should be available for sale before the end of the year.

The Workshop in Archaeology is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd and will feature Al Luckenbach as the keynote speaker, talking about the Pig Point site. The full schedule of workshop offerings is available on our webpage.

On August 9th, we held our archaeology focus group for the next Statewide Preservation Plan.

Zac and Matt met with collector Kevin Brady on August 28 about a 17th C site on what is now State-owned lands in Charles County, but wasn't when he collected it in the 1980s. His collection includes Llewyn Evans pipes, William Phillips pipes, and other mid-late 17th C. pipes, colonial bottle glass, and Buckley earthenware. Kevin was able to take us right to the site where we identified some olive bottle glass. We're making plans with DNR to conduct remote sensing this winter.

Matt reports that over the summer MHT has been involved in several field projects including the excavation of two test units at Old Otterbein Church in downtown Baltimore June 26-28, collection of total station data at Barwick's Ordinary on 6/30, excavation of shovel tests at Seneca Creek State Park from July 10-12, GPR data collection at JPPM on July 26, and excavation of two test units and additional GPR data collection from the Old Treasury Building on State House grounds from August 1-4.

Underwater Activities Report — Matt McKnight

Matt reports that MMAP staff participated in the planning and execution of a full-scale emergency preparation exercise with the Coast Guard.

Troy and Susan also taught a site mapping class for the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) in the St. Mary's River.

Susan also provided a training for the Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP) for volunteers and interested citizens at Assateague State Park on June 8.

Susan made presentations to the Marine Corps Intelligence Agency about Mallows Bay and at Calvert Marine Museum as part of a symposium about the loss of the ram schooner Levin J. Marvel on August 13.

On August 19, Susan led a paddling tour of Mallows Bay for the Potomac Riverkeeper's annual Riverpalooza event.

At the end of June (6/27-6/30), Troy and Susan returned to Buzzard Creek to record the Cox Log Canoe (18CV542) in greater detail.

Susan recently authored and submitted a chapter for a publication entitled: *Managing the Unmanageable: The Intertidal Shipwreck*.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between June and September, Dr. Singer reviewed three applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reported that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 10 volunteers. The lab is currently cataloging and preparing collections for curation from the Old Treasury Building (18AP22), Old Otterbein Church (18BC218), Mill Keeper West (18MO127), and the Poplar Springs East site (18PR1186).

Zac also reported that he is serving on the MHT Easement committee and the MHT Annual Meeting committee.

Matt and Zac continue to work on NAGPRA related coordination and are organizing for a potential joint repatriation request from the Piscataway Indian Nation and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe.

From June 26-28, Matt, Zac, and Steph conducted fieldwork at Old Otterbein Church in Baltimore City to follow up on a GPR survey, which yielded two anomalies of interest. One of the anomalies appeared to be an 18th century domestic feature, the other was a brick dump.

From July 10-12, Matt, Zac, and Steph conducted a shovel test pit survey at the River Road Hunting Area of Seneca Creek State Park to investigate the Mill Keeper West site of the Paleoindian Seneca Bluffs Complex. 171 STPs were excavated. A few jasper flakes were found, which might hint at the Paleoindian occupation area.

On July 26, Zac, Steph, and intern Jack Candiotti conducted GPR surveys to assist JPPM with planning for the Patterson House renovation and the Wallville project. The GPR surveys did not yield subsurface anomalies of interest.

Zac visited with the landowner of 18HO307 the Meadowsweet Pond site on July 28 to discuss upcoming earthmoving at the site. Zac will follow up for future survey on the property.

From August 1-4 Matt, Zac, and Steph conducted excavations and GPR survey at the Old Treasury Building and State House grounds. The GPR survey did not yield anomalies of much interest. The excavation found a rubble pile, which is also not likely to yield important information.

On August 9, Zac and Dixie joined DNR and Preservation MD on a site visit to Elkridge Furnace Inn site, which is on State property. The tenant has conducted much unauthorized and unapproved earthmoving and construction, which has impacted archaeological resources.

On August 17 and 24, Zac visited with Terry Crannell in Dorchester County. Mr. Crannell has been collecting and documenting archaeological sites throughout Dorchester Country for 65+ years. Zac is working with Mr. Crannell to add new sites to the MIHP and update site forms for previously recorded sites.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Matt McKnight

The MAC Lab expansion project continues to move forward. The July 12 pre-bid meeting got pushed back to September 6 and this meeting is currently underway (which is why Tricia is not available today). The construction project, probably slated to start late in the year, is projected to take 15 to 18 months. MAC Lab staff will not be able to have the public in the building for much, if not all of the construction

period, and there will be times when spaces will not be available even to staff. The MAC Lab will still be accepting collections during the construction period and will do what they can to accommodate researcher requests. They will explore loaning out collections to researchers if they cannot accommodate them being in the lab.

Since the last MACA meeting, the SS Columbus components have been placed on new high density ethafoam. The study collections are being boxed and moved into the server room on shelving that has been set up there. Pre-construction tasks are about 60% completed. All parts of the State House acorn and portico have been taken to the Maryland State Archives off-site storage and the cannon from the *CSS Alabama* has been returned to the Navy Yard in Washington. The pre-bid meeting for the move of some of the lab collections is scheduled for September 15.

The lab had a full roster of Gloria King Research Fellows, starting in late July and through all of August. The 2023 fellows were John Henshaw (College of William and Mary), studying Keyser communities along the Potomac, Charde Reid (College of William and Mary), studying gender and material consumption among the enslaved in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, Ryan Kennedy (Indiana University, Bloomington) studying human use of turtles in the 17th-early 20th centuries and a team of students (Brigid Ogden, Elizabeth Tarulis and Taylor Bowden) with the University of Tennessee expanding their study of the Addison Plantation/Oxon Hill condom to determine if it was manufactured in the United States or in Europe.

The *Witnesses of Wallville* grant from the NPS involves studying the rural community at the end of the peninsula where the park is located from the post bellum period to the mid-20th century. Our focus is on the Black community and changes in the demographics of Wallville during this period. Staff added a substantial section to the Storymap website covering community places—churches, schools, post offices, store, wharves and fraternal organizations. Research trips were taken to the National Archives, the Special Collections at Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland and the Cartographic Research Room of the National Archives at College Park. MHT assisted with the project by conducting remote sensing at the site of St. Luke's church, in order to see if we could pinpoint the location of the cemetery. The two areas tested did not show any evidence of graves. Phase I archaeological excavations at four sites associated with the Wallville community are planned this fall.

MAC Lab staff continue to monitor construction of ground disturbance associated with the Patterson Center renovation project. Substantial completion of this project is expected to occur in the early fall.

Conservation is currently treating three Civil War rifles from the second battle of Bull Run, ship components from the early 20th century steamship *Pomona California*, three conjure bottles from New Orleans, and is continuing with treatment of artifacts from the Philadelphia I-95 project, and Philadelphia's West River Shipyard.

MHT staff presented at a board meeting of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in early August about finding a way to return human remains of African ancestry to a more suitable place of repose. Two co-chairs for a working group have been appointed and a tour of the MAC Lab will take place sometime early this fall.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

Dixie Henry reports that project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in the past 3 months (June, July, August), the PRC unit reviewed a total of 1,405 state and federal projects.

Beth Cole continues to work on our E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP – participating in weekly e106 Team meetings to discuss comments from testing agencies and the progress that is being made on the system development. Beth has also conducted extensive database cleanup work that needs to be completed on our existing database prior to migration and has also made revisions to our *e106 User Guide*.

Beth Cole participated in 2 NCSHPO virtual meetings with NASA, ACHP, and SHPOs regarding “Heritage Zones” and NASA’s proposed Agency-wide Programmatic Agreement (APA) that will be aimed at addressing the effects of their Agency Master Plan on historic properties.

Beth also reviewed and submitted comments to NPS on a draft concept for a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement to cover NPS Cultural Resources grant programs.

Beth Reviewed FEMA’s 2022 annual report on actions under the FEMA MD PA: FEMA had 138 undertakings in MD - 122 were handled by FEMA under the PA and 17 were coordinated with MHT under the standard review process.

Beth and Dixie attended the Corps of Engineers’ Baltimore District Branch meeting on August 21, and Dixie gave a presentation on Working with the MD SHPO. The meeting was well attended by 20+ in person and 20+ virtual attendees who engaged in active discussion and questions. MHT staff answered questions and provided SHPO perspectives.

Beth and Dixie participated in multiple interagency coordination meetings, including the regularly scheduled monthly JE meetings with MDE/COE, the MDOT SHA quarterly coordination meeting, and the DNR quarterly coordination meeting.

Dixie and Zac participated in a site visit at the Elkrigde Furnace Inn in the Patapsco Valley State Park to assist DNR in the assessment of unauthorized improvements that have been carried out by the lessee over the past decade and their potential impacts on historic properties. In coordination with one of our architectural historians, Becky Roman we drafted a letter that was sent out to DNR last week - summarizing our observations and our recommendations regarding possible next steps and the measures that should be taken to remedy the cumulative adverse effects on the 19th century structures associated with the iron furnace complex, as well as archaeological site 18HO308 which is associated with 2 extant slave quarters and prehistoric site 18HO4.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Stephanie Soder reports that the last update to the Synthesis Project was completed on August 10. It went semi-smoothly and we updated about 30 sites. However, with the website changes that are going on, we are going to have to redo all of the URLs in all entries. We will have to do another update once that has all been completed, so it might happen before the next six-month timeline that Stephanie is going to try to keep to (next 6-month would be sometime in February)

Except for the non-digitized reports, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Allegany Counties are

complete, and they were added in the last update. Anne Arundel and Cecil counties are currently being written up.

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center camp outreach day organized by Stephanie was a success. The big hope for that outreach was to use our new “grab-and-go” outreach products that we have, like laminated big flashcards, a soil stratigraphy model, and some worksheets created by the two volunteers who are teachers from the ASM Eastern Shore chapter.

Stephanie has taken the lead for archaeology on a “Volunteer Spotlight” social media campaign to highlight some of our volunteers who help in the field and in the lab. Other departments at MHT and JPPM have also done a few for their volunteers. They’ve all been among our most liked posts. Steph reports that so far we’ve highlighted Lynne Bulhack, Judy Feldt, Julia Berg and Sarah Mason. Two more posts are written and ready to be posted.

In addition, a post came out in late August about what to do if someone finds an artifact and how they can report it through mdFIND.

Part of the most recent document/office purge and organization at MHT involved reorganizing the old MACA meeting documentation. A lot of extra copies have been removed. According to MHT retention standards, we have hardcopies of minutes, agendas, attendance, annual reports, policy documents, and strategic plans. Supporting material for agenda items and recordings are screened and destroyed after 5 years. October 1991 to December 2019 has been reorganized. We will be printing hardcopies for the recent years soon (2020-current), and there are still folders that need to be gone through from the 80s. There are a few folders for the 60s and 70s but they need to be organized as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Appreciation for Joy Beasley — Jane Cox

Jane Cox proposed that the committee send a letter of thanks and appreciation to Joy Beasley (NPS) for her years of service on MACA. Marian Creveling moved that MACA send such a letter and Stephen Brighton seconded the motion. Jane Cox and Stephen Brighton will take the lead on drafting the letter and will circulate as needed to the broader committee.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM, in a motion made by Jane Cox and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was unanimously approved.