



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

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MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHEOLOGY (MACA)

March 5, 2014

Committee Members in Attendance

Jane Cox
Marian Creveling
Joe Dent
Bill Dudley
Robert Wall

Staff in Attendance

Dennis Curry
Jan Gowing
Charlie Hall
Dixie Henry
Patricia Samford

The Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a. m. by Chairperson Jane Cox.

Review of the minutes of December 11, 2013

The minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Bill Dudley and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Underwater Activities Report – Dennis Curry (for Susan and Troy)

Troy is meeting with construction contractors as part of a project review on a project on the Elk River. The final NPS American Battlefield Protection Program report was submitted and accepted in December and the purchase of replacement equipment and software is part of the 2014 over the target request is expected to be completed by April. MHT submitted comments on the proposed

regulations for the Sunken Military Craft Act. The comments included requests for clarification, additional coordination and formal agreements with State governments. Troy met with Julie King to plan the first phase of field work on the Wicomico River. Four weeks of work are planned for 2014 that will include visual inspection of the shoreline and geophysical survey of the river bottom in the vicinity of Charlestown and Notley Hall. He has site inspections to conduct on the Potomac, the Patuxent and Anacostia Rivers, for construction and artificial reef projects proposed by MNCPPC, U.S. Navy and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. Susan gave MMAP's annual presentation to the Board of Public Works and she continues to work with NOAA on the Marine Protected Areas working group, Monitor sanctuary and nomination of Malloys Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Terrestrial Activities Report – Charlie Hall

Julie King is our principal partner for Maryland Archeology Month 2014. The theme approved by the Maryland Archeology Month Committee is, "To Endure to World's End": Exploring Maryland Indian Landscapes. The Maryland Archeology Month committee was concerned that the theme be about archeology, while Julie has expanded it to include Native Americans/Maryland Indians and landscapes. Julie has put together 14 essays for the booklet, most authored by prominent Maryland archeologists bookended by essays written by Maryland Indians. The poster is a collage of photographs of artifacts from Zekiah For, the landscape near the site, and archeologist going to work there.

This year's Annual Workshop in Maryland Archeology will be held on March 22, 2014. Dennis reported that the two keynote speakers will be Jim Delgado on a shipwreck in the Gulf of Mexico and Jim Horsley speaking on the remote sensing he has done on ossuaries, Zekiah Fort and Nottingham, etc.

There will be a War of 1812 fortification archeological survey in Patterson Park in Baltimore City this spring. It will be run by Baltimore Heritage, Inc., and largely staffed by volunteers from the public and the Archaeological Society of Maryland.

The Field Session will again be at the Biggs Ford site, with Joe Dent as our Principal Investigator. Bob Wall and his Towson University field school will be participating. It will be held from May 23rd until June 2nd.

The Battle of Brooklyn, Maryland archeological survey is on hold while we await a response from the property owner. This survey would be of a small parcel that has often been cited as the location of the mass grave of the Maryland 400. Governor O'Malley is interested in pursuing this.

The Mount Claire collection is currently housed in a in a Baltimore City high school. We hold an easement on the historic core of the property, and also on the archeological collection. Due to recent reluctance of the current curator of the archeological collection (the Carroll Park Foundation) to allow a qualified researcher access to it, we have notified the Director of the City's Recreation and Parks Dept. that we may invoke our right to take custody of the collection. If this happens, the collection would be moved to the MAC Lab.

MAC Lab Activities Report – P. Samford

Gloria S. King Research Fellowship - Received 6 applications for projects. Was able to offer funding to two scholars – one doing materials analysis on locally made earthenwares for

sourcing information; the other a faunal study on the colonial use of cattle as draft animals. May be able to offer one or two weeks of funding to a third person – remains to be seen.

Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland Webpage – an updated page on white salt glaze stoneware has been completed. Bottle seals will be next – although information on about 35 bottle seals in MAC collection has been posted to a new crowd sourced website, called Culture Embossed, hosted by Council of Virginia Archaeologists and created by Mt. Vernon Archeology.

Collections Database Transportation Enhancement Program grant is on hold until a Memorandum of Understanding is signed.

Public Archeology/ RITES Trail project – Crew working on lab analysis and report writing for Smith St. Leonard site – will begin eleventh season of public archeology in May.

Huntington High School History and Archeology classes. JPPM continues to work with Huntingtown High School to analyze and write up features from the Federal Reserve (18BC27) site that was excavated in 1980. The 2013 class won an MHT Preservation Award for this project. JPPM is working with another high school group this year on a similar project, and a class at St. Mary's College is class working on more features (primarily privies and wells) from the site.

Discovering Archeology Day at JPPM will be held on April 19th. I encourage everyone to come!

Review and Compliance Activities Report – Dixie Henry

The office has reviewed 145 projects since the beginning of the year, for impacts to archeological resources. Recently, there was a coordination meeting with St. Mary's city and St. Mary's College to discuss their projects. One of the projects they've been working on is archeology being done on the former site of Anne Arundel Hall. It is thought that there are remains of an 18th century storehouse. They will also need to do archeology for their stadium relocation project. They will also re-inter the remains that were removed from the chapel crypt, while they were working on the reconstruction of the chapel. The work being done on the National Harbor involved some adverse effects to the Addison Plantation. The permit will be expiring in a month, so the Peterson Company is applying for a re-authorization to be able to continue work, such as the public interpretation, website, video, etc. Upcoming is the annual coordination meeting with the Corps of Engineers. There will be a discussion on how to better coordinate on their offshore projects. There has been a lot of dredging that has not been reviewed by any SHPO office. Troy has been talking with the Corps, who agrees that someone needs to be looking at this. Review and Compliance will be discussing the status of MOA's they have in place and discussing how to have better consultation on permit modifications.

Synthesis Project – Dennis Curry

The first pass through the entire State has been finished. Now, Matt is starting on the lower Eastern Shore, having done Wicomico, Dorchester, Worcester and Somerset, picking up the reports that have come in since the project was started. Now that Matt is fulltime, they are going for 100% coverage. There is Sandy money and DNR had put in a proposal a Coastal Resiliency

program in the State and it was recommended that some archeology work should be done with the money. What they will be doing is, identifying coastal sites, creating a GIS layer of sites within a thousand feet of coastline and an assessment of their erosional threat. Then there will be limited testing at a stratified sample of sites. We have not heard if we have been awarded that money. One of the things that are going to be looked at is Jane's Island. Having been hit real hard during Sandy, they plan to do some restoration there. In addition, the State has a million and a half dollars of other Sandy money that will be opened to the public for grants for any Sandy damage. The Chesapeake Bay office of the Park Service is interested in the Susquehanna River and its historic Indian village sites. We were able to map out two Late Woodland/ Contact areas. Dennis is giving a paper at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on a 17th century Potomac site, talking about the Heaters Island site...its history and archeology. He is also just about ready to go to the printer with an issue of Maryland Archeology for March 2013. It has six articles in it on some really cool stuff, such as a Chinese laundry and some of the stuff that came out of it and an article on the Chew Mansion. There will also be Curator's Choice articles reprinted from the MAC Lab's webpage.

General Collections Policy Draft – Charlie Hall

Charlie passed out copies of the revised General Collections Policy draft for the Committee's review and approval. It discusses topics such as the purpose of the collection, acquisitions, de-accessioning, loans, ethics, etc. The policy establishes a Collections Committee, composed of members of all sections of MHT, who currently meet quarterly. In the revision, each of the nine MHT collections assigned to an Administrative Unit that will be responsible for creating their own collections policy and reporting to the MHT Collections Committee once a year. Each of the collections-specific policies will define the goals of the collection and anything particular to that collection. The responsibility for the MHT Archeology Collection is assigned jointly to the Office of Archeology and the MAC Lab, so there would always be an archaeologist to make decisions on the collections. Also of interest, draft Policy contains a robust ethics statement that includes the prohibition of MHT personnel from competing with the collecting activities of any MHT Administrative Unit and acquiring de-accessioned objects if they were involved in the decision process. Once the draft Policy is approved by MACA, it will go to our Director, then the MHT Board of Trustees and finally our Secretary. MACA Chair, Jane Cox asked for clarification regarding the ethics and collecting aspect of the draft Policy, and then suggested that MACA make comments via email. Charlie hopes to see this draft Policy adopted by the MHT and MDP by the MACA meeting in June.

Archeological Site Location Information Access Policy – Charlie Hall

The archeological site location information draft access policy was distributed by email to MACA following the December 2013 meeting. MACA Chair Jane Cox opened discussion by voicing her concern that this policy might be too restrictive. Others felt the policy might impose unintended restrictions for those who are doing archeological research with MHT data. Charlie noted that Proxy access is acceptable, but that any interpretation for agency planning or policy purposes has to be either done by, or directly overseen by an archeologist. Jane questions what the restrictions will do to public interest. Dennis stated that MHT is required by law to protect the information. Dixie stated that if you are not a qualified professional, you need to be working

with one of our team, so that there can be some assurance that the data is being used and interpreted properly. This is a formalization of a policy that has been informally applied for many years at the Trust. As for the Public Information Act in Maryland, it has an exception for archeology. If someone insists, on gaining access to information that has been withheld from them, a determination is made by the Director, as to whether the property is eligible for the Maryland or National Register, and if they are not eligible, then the information will be shared.

A motion was made to accept the Archaeological Site Location Information Access Policy, as drafted, by Tom Forhan and seconded by Joe Dent; the motion was carried unanimously.

Other Business

March 7 - There is a Council for Maryland Archeology meeting on Friday at the Museum Resource Center in Landover.

April 14 – Richard Leaky is coming to AU to give a talk.

The next meeting date will be Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m., by Bill Dudley and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was carried unanimously.