



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)

March 4, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bruce Terrell, Don Housley, Jane Cox, Robert Wall, Marian Creveling, Joy Beasley, Stephen Brighton

Staff in Attendance:

Matt McKnight, Susan Langley, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Hughes, Karen Golder, Zac Singer, Charles Hall, Anne Raines, Rebecca Morehouse, Dixie Henry

The meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Review of the December 02, 2020 MACA meeting minutes

The December 02, 2020 minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Bruce Terrell; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes reported that the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly was proceeding smoothly and there are no reductions to the MHT operating budget, financial assistance programs or staffing levels anticipated at this time. Legislative initiatives of interest include HB1099-Historic African American Cemetery Preservation Fund and Study which includes language directing the Maryland Department of Planning, in consultation with concerned stakeholders, including the Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Preservation Maryland, and descendant communities of historic African

American cemeteries to (1) study the issues facing historic African American cemeteries in the State, including by identifying the types of cemetery identification, restoration, protection, preservation, maintenance, or commemoration activities that can be accomplished under current law, through changes to regulations, and through legislation; and (2) examine the types of cemetery identification, restoration, protection, preservation, maintenance, or commemoration activities used in other states.

Chief Archaeologist Report—Matt McKnight

In December, Matt completed editing and layout of Maryland Archeology 53(2), which featured an article on jasper sources by Jay Custer, an article by Matt and Zac about Barwick's Ordinary, and a Curator's Choice sidebar by Tricia Samford. The next volume will be a double issue dedicated to the Biggs Ford site report.

A large portion of Matt's time since the December meeting was spent in preparing an American Battlefield Protection Program grant application. This planning grant will support both architectural and archaeological research on Revolutionary War encampment sites throughout Maryland.

Matt, working with Zac, prepared two presentations on recent MHT remote sensing projects for the online Middle-Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Matt and Zac will present on Barwick's Ordinary and Cresap's Fort on Saturday morning March 27. MHT's YouTube video on Barwick's will also be featured in the MAAC film festival on Friday afternoon.

MHT has been coordinating with the owners of the Barwick's Ordinary site and will be conducting some brief ground-truthing excavations at the site later in March. Washington College will be holding their summer fieldschool at the site in June and the collections from that work, as well as MHT's work in March will be donated to the MAC Lab.

Matt has also been coordinating with CfMA on recording some of the Maryland Archeology Month webinars, as well as a separate webinar that is being sponsored by Preservation Maryland titled "Finding Common Ground Between Archaeologists and Relic Hunters".

On February 3rd, Matt, Charlie, and Marcia held a meeting to discuss ways to accommodate research archaeology on easement properties. There are plans for a follow-up discussion with a larger group within the Trust later this month.

On February 4th, Matt and Zac conducted a ground penetrating radar survey at Sotterley in St. Mary's County. Additional fieldwork planned at the site has been delayed due to weather.

On February 26th and March 2nd, MHT conducted remote sensing survey work (GPR, Gradiometer, and Magnetic Susceptibility Survey) at Maxwell Hall in Charles County. We

will be returning on Thursday to complete that fieldwork.

Other activities have included reviewing drafts of collections policies, assisting with draft Non-Cap grant agreements (now with OAG), assisting with an update to the Synthesis database, and responding to requests from local governments for guidance RE archaeology.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Between January 1, 2020 and December 28, 2020, Troy Nowak reviewed and logged 936 underwater projects for compliance purposes.

In January, Susan Langley participated in the annual Society for Historical Archaeology Conference (virtually). On January 6, she Chaired the Annual Government Maritime Managers Meeting. She mentored two students for this event and represented Underwater Archaeology on one of six career panels hosted by the Past Presidents of the SHA. Susan also participated in a 3-day NOAA-hosted Workshop on Climate Change. Both Troy and Susan participated in many meetings.

MMAP's request to purchase a truck for towing the large survey boat is with DGS for final approval before going out for bids.

Susan wrote articles for the ASM newsletter and the Maryland Archaeology Month booklet and spoke in the Annapolis Maritime Museum's Winter Lecture Series and to the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network.

Troy is working with the non-profit Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG), which received a non-capital grant, in order to help them with scheduling and MMAP will undertake the side scan sonar survey for this project. Fieldwork under this grant will not commence until summer.

In March, Susan will be working with the ASM's CAT Committee to find a role for a citizen science program called HMS (Heritage Monitoring Scouts) Maryland and if a CAT format is developed Virginia and Delaware are interested in adapting it. Having a consistent site monitoring program in these States could create an opportunity for a DelMarVa-wide initiative.

Susan will be making presentations in NOAAs "You Don't Know What You Don't Know" lecture series for oil and hazmat spill response personnel, instructing the Law & Ethics class for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society's (MAHS) annual introductory underwater archaeology course, and presenting a paper at the MAAC meetings.

Susan has been asked to write the Preface for John McGrain's new book.

The Board of Public Works will hear MMAPs annual submission on March 10th.

Troy is working on researching and requisitioning equipment and maintenance work on the survey boat.

Susan also reported the passing of George Bass (December 9, 1932 – March 2, 2021), who was born in South Carolina but grew up in Annapolis and who founded underwater archaeology as a formal discipline in North America.

Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

The Archeology Month poster and booklet were both delivered to the printers last Monday (February 22). The poster was designed by graphic artist Kathy Addario of M-NCPPC Prince George's County Parks. Charlie described and shared images of both the booklet and poster. We are printing 900 of each product, including mini-posters, magnets, and booklets, which will be distributed by direct mail. Also planned for this year's Archeology Month are a number of virtual events, including short recorded video interviews with the eight booklet essay authors, as well as several webinars and lectures (both live and recorded). Some in-person events are also possible, with all appropriate COVID-19 protocols in place.

We will be discussing the 2021 Field Session this Saturday at the ASM Board Meeting. At issue is the date of the event. We know it will be held at the Billingsley Site in Prince George's County where we will continue our search for the last documented settlement of the Patuxent Indians. What we don't know is how the COVID-19 numbers will be in late May, when we would normally hold the Field Session. Options include holding it in late May with the possibility of reduced numbers of participants (PG county currently limits outdoor gatherings to 25 persons), or postponing it until the late Summer or early Fall. In addition to COVID-19, we may also want to consider the expected 17-year cicada eruption, which might appear between mid-May through late June.

MHT has received one new permit requests since the December meeting for work at the 200th century Parker House at St. Mary's City, slated for demolition.

The Administrator of the African American Heritage Preservation Program's grant fund, Dr. Charlotte Lake, and I are pursuing a mechanism for bringing grantees into compliance with the Real Property article of State code that requires owners of historic aged cemeteries to consult with our Director when actions are anticipated that could affect them. Many of the grants in this program are for work at churches which often have associated cemeteries. Charlotte envisions a form letter the grantees can complete that documents their close work with us during the grant process during which we will have provided guidance regarding any work on or impacts to any burial sites.

We are in the early stages of considering changes to our easement protocols that will allow us to permit research archaeology on easement properties. Currently we are constrained by the Secretary of the Interior's Preservation Standard #8 which states that "Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place." Charlie described the issues involved and possible solutions to allow research on such sites.

Our revised human remains regulations have received the endorsement of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. They will next go to a legislative review group and ultimately be published for public comment. Our counsel, Paul Cucuzzella, anticipates that they may be adopted in as little as 3 months.

Charlie assisted in the fieldwork at Maxwell Hall by conducting magnetic susceptibility survey of a field on DNR property.

State Curator Becky Morehouse and Charlie have prepared a draft Archaeological Collections Policy, which was reviewed by Tricia and Matt. Their comments have been addressed and we look forward to the comments of this committee.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

MAC Lab staff continues to telework when possible, but many staff members have resumed a five day lab work schedule. Currently, no researchers or volunteers are allowed in the lab, although we continue to accept new collections and conservation projects from outside clients.

In personnel news, we will have two new staff members joining us in March. Monica Kitner joined the lab on March 3rd as a member of the conservation team; Ms. Kitner was an intern and a volunteer at the lab in the past. Alex Glass, a former archaeological field technician at the lab, will be joining the staff on March 17th as the Patterson contractual archaeologist. In this term-limited position, Alex will be performing pre-construction archaeology and construction monitoring for the Patterson House renovation project.

Conservator Francis Lukezic has been offered a position with the Navy at their new conservation lab in Richmond and will be leaving state employment at the end of March.

We have not yet been allowed to advertise and rehire in Ed Chaney's Deputy Director position, although the hiring paperwork has been sent forward and approved at the MDP level.

The lab is planning to hold a 2021 Public Archaeology session during the month of September. Daily participant numbers will be kept low, given the uncertainty about the prevalence of vaccinations by the early fall.

The lab is making good progress in its long-term project to redesign the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website. A new section on jaw harps has been completed, but will probably not go live until the redone website is posted. New sections on flatware are underway.

The Paca House collection is the only noteworthy collection received at the lab in the last three months. Since it was determined to be state-owned it came in "as-is". It was about 20 boxes. There were several projects dating from the late 1960s to the early 1990s. It has all

been rehoused, a study collection has been created, and artifacts have been pulled for conservation.

Several new Federal Collections have been received at the lab: the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is a new client with one box from their Phase I/II work at BARC (USDA). We also received a collection from a Phase II project at 18CH388 at Indian Head from Louis Berger Group on behalf of the Navy.

The only other main thing of note for federal collections is that the Air Force is anxious to enter into an MOU with the lab instead of just using purchase orders.

Conservation has received the contents of a time capsule from the Portsmouth Arts and Cultural Center in Virginia, which was recovered upon the removal of a Confederate monument last fall. We are also anticipating the delivery of a bronze cannon from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and two wood turbines from Motor Mill Historic Site in Iowa.

Conservation is still working with Alexandria Archaeology on a project that will get timbers from their shipwrecks ponded (curated underwater), as a way to long-term preserve the timbers without the immediate cost of conservation.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

The Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide needed technical assistance to program customers to the best of its ability via telework, limited office time, conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, and participation in virtual interagency working groups. The incoming project review workload and report submittals remain at steady volumes.

Architectural historian Becky Roman began work as Preservation Officer with PR&C on 1/4/2021 via a combination of teleworking and staggered time in the office. Beth has devoted considerable time over the last 2 months for virtual training and supervision of the new staff member. Dixie has also provided virtual trainings and orientations for Becky regarding various jointly assigned agencies and program areas including MDE/COE permits, energy projects, NRCS actions, and other general coordination issues.

Beth continues to work with Greg Brown and MDP IT staff on the development of an E106 online submittal and comment process for the Trust's Review and Compliance program. The E106 Team is holding regular conference calls and breakout work sessions with involved staff.

Dixie has continued to participate in the monthly interagency JE meetings to discuss a variety of projects requiring Corps/MDE permits, including the 3rd Chesapeake Bay Crossing, Nice Bridge replacement, Ferry Cove restoration in Talbot County, Lighthouse

Point Marina reconfiguration, and Chestertown Waterfront Trail.

Dixie participated in DNR's Ranger School History Program – providing presentations on the state historic presentation review process and the role of MHT as a resource agency, as well as on the case study of the Point Lookout Lighthouse Renovation project. DNR has asked if MHT can also provide similar training to the MPS Managers.

Dixie will also be meeting with DNR to discuss a potential training opportunity for DNR's internal project review team. Dixie will work with other Compliance staff to develop a workshop for this team – focusing on the state historic preservation review process and ways to enhance MHT/DNR coordination.

Dixie attended a meeting with DNR to discuss a proposed wetland creation project on Wye Island that could potentially impact 2 archaeological sites – one prehistoric site and one early 18th c. site. DNR agreed to develop plans that would eliminate ground-disturbing activities in the field containing the 2 sites.

Dixie provided guidance to DNR following an unanticipated discovery of a 19th c. brick feature during a fence installation at Point Lookout State Park

Dixie reviewed the proposed MD State Programmatic General Permit-6 (MDSPGP-6) and provided comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The MDSPGP-5 allows MDE to authorize certain activities while other activities must be authorized by the Corps, and it also streamlines the fulfillment of the Corps' and MDE's state and federal historic preservation responsibilities. The MDSPGP-5 will expire in September of 2021 and will be replaced by the MDSPGP-6.

Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer

Zac is working on synthesizing reports from Montgomery County (7 sites total) for the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project. On February 16th, Zac's 2020 contributions to the synthesis went live on the synthesis website. The update included 30 new sites and updates to 3 additional sites. The update also fixed the "justification" links.

In Early December, Zac processed the GPR data from the Cresap's Fort site and collaborated with Matt to create maps illustrating the data in ArcGIS. The data are suggestive of a palisaded homestead with an associated outbuilding.

In Early December, Zac finished the draft of the survey of the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary survey. The contact period Native American fort was not definitively identified, but a colonial site the Poplar Springs East site (18PR1186) was found. Documentary records indicate that 18PR1186 could be Robert Orme's 1694 tract/home site or the site may contain material culture from both Orme's home and the Indian Fort.

On December 9th, Zac and Matt had a meeting with folks from the Marshy Point Nature

Center (MPNC) to discuss the possibility of the Office of Archaeology assisting MPNC with remote sensing around a possible cemetery site and associated house site. Zac and Charlie visited MPNC on 2/23/21 to strategize for a remote sensing survey, which is scheduled for March 23rd.

In late December, Zac drafted a Survey123 app for the public to submit information about artifact discoveries. The app is currently being tested with the hopes to release it in the coming months.

On January 21st, Zac presented a lecture on the Maryland Fluted Point Survey to the ASM Mid-Potomac Chapter. Zac presented a similar lecture on the Maryland Fluted Point Survey to the UPAG on Feb 21st.

In Late January and Early February, Zac and Matt drafted grant agreements for the 3 FY21 Non-Cap Archaeology grants.

On February 4th, Zac and Matt conducted a GPR survey of a potential area for Governor George Plater's burial at Historic Sotterley. The GPR data yielded an anomaly that is suggestive of a burial.

In February, Zac and Matt drafted powerpoints for a presentation on Barwick's Ordinary and a presentation on Cresap's Fort. These presentations will be part of the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference which will take place from March 26-28th.

On February 23rd, Zac and Charlie visited 18BA57, the Knight Site, to document evidence of looting, which was first reported in the early 2000s. The site did not seem to be in the process of being actively looted, but the pit and mound topography suggest that large scale "pot-hunting" occurred in the recent past.

On February 26th, March 2nd, and March 4th, Zac, Matt, and Charlie are conducting a remote sensing survey around a possible cemetery site and around the Maxwell Hall house site.

OTHER BUSINESS

The MHT Collections Policy, approved in June of 2014 after review and comment by this committee, defines nine MHT held collections, including the Archaeological Collection. The MHT Collections Policy requires each MHT unit with responsibility for an MHT collection to develop a separate specific collections policy, and requires that it be consistent with the MHT Collections Policy. These collection-specific policies are required to cover the purpose or mission of the collection, the scope of the collection, acquisition and deaccession procedures and authority, loans, and ethical issues such as commodification and appraisals.

The Archaeological Collection is the joint responsibility of the Office of Archaeology and the MAC Lab. The Chief Archaeologist and the Director of the MAC Lab are given the

responsibility under the MHT Collections Policy of developing the Archaeological Collections Policy. As we have reported to you in the past, Matt and Tricia delegated the drafting of the policy to Becky and me. Becky produced the first draft which we jointly modified. It has been reviewed and commented on twice by Tricia and Matt. As specified in the MHT Collections Policy, the Archaeological Collections Policy requires further review by the MHT Collections Committee, MHT Director and Deputy Director, and by this committee. Approval is by the MHT Board and the Secretary of Planning.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m., in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and seconded by Robert Wall; the motion was unanimously approved.