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**Maryland**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**  
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY  
(MACA)  
December 8, 2021

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Joy Beasley, Don Housley, Jane Cox, Marian Creveling, Stephen Brighton, Bob Wall

**Staff in Attendance:**

Matt McKnight, Patricia Samford, Anne Raines, Zac Singer, Charles Hall, Troy Nowak, Dixie Henry

**The meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.**

**Review of the September 8, 2021 MACA meeting minutes:**

The September 8, 2021, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Joy Beasley and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Report from the Director** — Anne Raines

**Chief Archaeologist Report** — Matt McKnight

On September 11, the Office of Archaeology successfully held an in-person Workshop in Archaeology. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Joe Dent, and we hosted workshops on open-source GIS, soils analysis, 3D photogrammetry, 17<sup>th</sup>-century colonial ceramic ID, and Atlatl throwing. We also presented the Prehistoric Overview for the CAT program.

On October 12 and 13 we conducted a GPR and metal detecting survey at Whitehall Manor in Anne Arundel County. The focus of our search was two areas west of the main house and also a horse pasture to the north. While nothing of note was identified in the horse pasture, the results in the two areas west of the house were much more promising. This work was preparatory to the annual ORV Field Day, which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We worked with MHT staff to create a detailed landscape plan of the historic core of the landscape and wrapped up our GPR testing that day.

On October 14 and 15, we participated in Public Archaeology Days with Washington College at

Barwick's Ordinary near Denton. We were able to better define at least two of the colonial-era features there.

On October 22, we held our semi-annual CARP coordinating meeting between JPPM and MHT staff archaeologists and others who deal with archaeological data.

Also on October 22, Matt made a virtual presentation to the Western Chapter of the ASM on the Cresap's Fort results (which they helped us on). Matt will also be preparing a poster presentation on this topic for the SAA annual meetings in Chicago this coming April. He continues to work on the final report for NPS on that research.

From October 28-November 1 we sponsored ground-truthing excavations near Clear Spring (Washington Co.) with the Western MD chapter of ASM at the Maiden's Choice I site. This appears to be a Late 18<sup>th</sup> to Early 19<sup>th</sup> C. domestic site. The collection will be going to the MAC Lab and we completed a site form and assigned number 18WA634.

On October 29, Matt and Zac presented on the Barwick's Ordinary Site as part of the MHT Architectural Symposium.

We are continuing to work on our Standards and Guidelines revisions. We have a meeting next week to start assigning writing tasks.

Zac and Matt assisted underwater review and compliance with a site visit in Queen Anne's County on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

On November 22 Zac and Matt collected additional data at the Clear Spring Site based on additional feedback from the property owners. Looking further up the hill to the North of Maiden's Choice I, we identified two anomalies, one that appears to be a buried cellar and the other possibly a stone-lined well. Stay tuned...

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zac, Charlie and Matt participated in the CfMA Board Meeting held at the new Josiah Henson Museum in Montgomery County. And on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Charlie and Matt logged in for the virtual ASM Board Meeting where the Board voted to hold the Annual Field Session at the Barwick's Ordinary site next spring. This is the first Field Session on Eastern Shore in 20 years.

Much of our time in September and October was dedicated to pushing forward the review of Non-Capital Grant applications. We were able to recommend funding for three archaeology projects: Tracing Piscataway History on the Ground (St. Mary's College of Maryland) - \$60K, the 2022 Field Session (ASM) - \$17K, and Slavery Resistance and Freedom (Lost Towns) - \$40K.

The Rodgers Tavern and Lower Ferry Park Survey (Town of Perryville) is about to wrap up, with only paperwork tasks remaining. Our Grant to Catholic University for the Jesuit Plantation Surveys in Cecil and St. Mary's Counties was actually increased by \$6K for additional remote sensing work by Tim Horsley. We also recently had to terminate our grant with CWAR for work on Parson's Island as the grantee was found to be in default.

An update was also provided concerning upcoming fieldwork.

## **Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley/Troy Nowak**

The MHT Dive Safety Board met virtually on Nov. 17. No diving was conducted on behalf of the maritime program in 2021. Discussion included updates on the condition and maintenance of the U-1105 mooring buoy and the timing of its removal later this month and its replacement in April 2022.

Susan gave a presentation to the OASIS seniors group about Mallows Bay and will participate in an episode of MPT's *Outdoors Maryland* program on the sanctuary which airs in January.

Susan also participated in a number of meetings of various topics including Emergency Response meetings related to chemical spills (USCG Area Contingency Plan and USCG Regional Response Team 3 (RRTIII), maritime heritage grants (NCSHPO), outreach (National Geographic and NOAA about an episode of *Drain the Ocean* that may feature DC and the Potomac River), ocean acidification (Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN) Working Group), and meetings of the Society for Historical Archaeology Governmental Affairs Committee, the ASM Annual Meeting, and the Maritime Committee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture.

She also participated in two conferences the Annual Tide Mills International conference (Mid-Atlantic Society for the Preservation of Old Mills – for which she serves as VP and Editor), Annual Tide Mills International -virtual, and the Past Forward Conf.

Susan will conduct a virtual training for wreck tagging on February 5 at 9 am, and will be planning future wreck tagging events. She will provide a Zoom link after the holidays. And she plans to provide assistance to citizens in Arundel-on-the-Bay who would like some assistance documenting remains of railroad rails offshore in late February/early March.

Troy has been keeping up with project review and compliance work, answering a variety of inquiries, and working with the standards and guidelines revision team while on intermittent leave. Survey work in support of the current U-1105 non-capital grant has been rescheduled for April 2022.

## **Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall**

After 18 years of Tuesdays, our Volunteer Lab Director, Louise Akerson, has decided to retire (again). Under Louise's calm and competent guidance, the lab volunteers have completed collections upgrades for approximately 25 sites by completely repackaged them using materials that meet or exceed current State standards, and have fully cataloged at least 4 major prehistoric and 4 major historic site collections. Zac Singer will assume the directorship in the new year.

At long last the revised MHT General Collections Policy and new Archaeological Collections policy have been approved by our Director.

One new permit has been issued since the September meeting. Permitted was a Phase I survey of the Maryland Military Department's Frederick Readiness Center in anticipation of new proposed water and sewer alignments. There was also one Emergency Mitigation Effort reported under the

2021 Annual Historic St. Mary's City permit. In November HSMC replaced the septic line to the 1966 constructed Bean House.

The disposition of the orphaned headstones from Bishops Head in Dorchester County has been finalized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who, despite a robust counter effort mounted by a number of claimed descendants, will transfer them to the Nause Wawash Band of Indians, who install them at the Wesley Chapel cemetery in Andrews, a community 10 miles from their original location.

Our plan to build a State-Wide cemetery GIS database, aggregating data already collected by others (including municipalities, counties, and historical societies/advocacy groups) may duplicate efforts by the Baltimore Genealogical Society, which is developing a shared statewide repository of cemetery data. A coordination meeting is planned to learn more.

Charlie provided an overview and update on a May 2021 National NAGPRA Program inquiry. Charlie and Becky held several meetings throughout the spring and summer of 2021 to identify remains that could be subject to the inquiry about a 1993 inventory of remains potentially subject to NAGPRA in MHT's possession. At this point it appears certain that MHT didn't consult with any Federally Recognized Tribes in 1993 as it was our conclusion that there were no such tribes with whom we were required to consult. The regulations (CFR 43 §10.8 (d) Summaries, Consultation) require museums to consult with tribes:

- From whose tribal lands unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony originated;

- That are, or are likely to be, culturally affiliated with unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony; and

- From whose aboriginal lands unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony originated.

There are no federally recognized tribes resident in Maryland, and as a result there are no tribal lands. We cannot demonstrate a cultural affiliation between any contemporary recognized tribe and any of the archaeological cultures from which the unassociated funerary objects are derived. We are still researching aboriginal lands in Maryland. This concept isn't defined in the section of the regulations dealing with unassociated funerary objects (43 CFR § 10.8), but "aboriginal occupation" is defined in the section dealing with the disposition of culturally unidentifiable remains (§ 10.11) as being "recognized by a final judgment of the Indian Claims Commission or the United States Court of Claims, or by a treaty, Act of Congress, or Executive Order." The only possibly relevant action we have yet discovered is a treaty between the Maryland colony and a tribe that is currently recognized was concluded in 1744 with the Six Nations of the Iroquois. By this treaty the Iroquois relinquished their claim that certain lands in Western Maryland were theirs by right of conquest. They made no claim that they ever occupied these lands. We anticipate contacting the National NAGPRA Program soon to solicit their thoughts and suggestions.

And finally, Charlie Hall has announced that he is retiring effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## **MAC Lab Activities Report** — Patricia Samford

The lab is finishing up its final season at the Smith St. Leonard site (1711-1754), completing mapping and backfilling. The Public Archaeology program to be held in May and June of 2022 will take place at the Melon Field site, a 17<sup>th</sup> century domestic site on park property. The site was examined briefly by Dennis Pogue in the 1980s and contains numerous subsurface features.

The MAC Lab renovation is still ongoing; with all reroofing completed and the final steps (replacing patio and sidewalks, installing snowguards, landscaping) still taking place. We can probably expect work to continue in to the first few months of 2022.

At the end of September, the lab began a year-long period of design for the MAC Lab expansion. We are working with Marshall Craft Assoc. of Baltimore and DGS to plan a new curation wing that will accommodate about 40 additional years of archaeological collections, as well as redesign of some interior spaces in the lab.

The lab submitted a grant proposal to the NPS African American Civil Rights grant program for a project to document about ten postbellum and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Black farmsteads on park grounds and an adjoining property.

The lab worked with the Historic Annapolis Foundation (HAF) to move the original State House acorn to Annapolis for long-term display at the HAF museum at 99 Main Street. This move took place in mid-November and the acorn has been successfully installed for display.

Conservation is about to begin a large x-ray survey project for CRM firm McCormick Taylor.

Two undergraduate interns were hired with a combination of MHT Board funding and funding from the City of Annapolis to rehouse two large and important collections excavated by Mark Leone and the Archaeology in Annapolis project. The Shiplap House and the Brice House collections arrived at the lab in mid-October and the interns have already completed rehousing the Shiplap site collection.

Sara Rivers Cofield worked with Craig Lukezic, cultural resource manager at Patuxent Naval Air Station, to create a traveling exhibit about several 17<sup>th</sup>-century archaeological sites at Webster Field and the Naval Air Station.

The 2022 Discovering Archaeology Day will be held April 9 in and around the MAC Lab.

## **Review and Compliance Activities Report** — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

The Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities. The incoming project reviews and report submittals remain at a steady volume with 309 projects reviewed in November.

In October, Beth and Dixie both participated in Day 1 of NRCS's virtual Cultural Resources Training for NRCS Eastern Shore region staff. We gave presentations on the Section 106 review

process and the role of MHT under the NRCS statewide PA for MD. The training was well attended by 30 NRCS participants.

Dixie held conference calls with DNR and EAC/A to assist DNR with assessing impacts of recently discovered ground disturbance at Catoctin Furnace and determining appropriate measures to restore the site and protect the archaeologically sensitive area from future disturbance.

Beth held a conference call with Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) archaeologists regarding upcoming project submittals and coordination with St. Mary's College on upcoming College projects.

Beth also participated in a conference call with the NPS National Capital Area's new Acting Regional Archaeologist to discuss Section 106 projects and 110 work.

Dixie has continued to participate in the monthly interagency JE meeting to discuss multiple projects requiring joint Corps/MDE permits, including the proposed shoreline stabilization work at the 18<sup>th</sup> c. Whitehall property (living shoreline).

We reviewed the first project to come in under the Ellicott City Safe & Sound Programmatic Agreement – the Channel Constriction Project. This particular undertaking will not require any archaeological investigations, but future phases of the flood mitigation projects will require survey work.

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.

### **Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer**

Zac is now preparing to have an update go live for the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project by the end of 2021. The update will include 10 sites from Montgomery County and 10 sites from Prince George's County.

With Charlie's retirement, Zac is now the coordinator for the 2022 Maryland Archeology Month committee. Zac is organizing the committee's kickoff meeting to occur before the end of 2021.

The FY20 Non-Capital Grant for Anne Arundel County has been successfully completed. The FY20 Non-Capital Grant for the Chesapeake Watershed Archaeological Research has been terminated due to default. The FY21 Non-Capital Grant to Historic St. Mary's City is progressing, although the remote sensing survey has been delayed due to issues with procuring specialty equipment.

On September 9, Matt and Zac visited the MAC Lab to select charred botanical remains from archaeological features at the Billingsley site for AMS radiocarbon dating. The AMS dates generated from Billingsley were primarily Late Archaic in age, however Feature 9 dated to AD

1458-1631 suggestive of a Contact Period date associated with likely 17<sup>th</sup> C. artifacts recovered near Feature 9.

Zac co-led a workshop on 3D Photogrammetry Modeling at the Workshop on September 11.

On September 30, Zac visited an avocation archaeologist in Calvert county to document his artifact collection, which he will likely donate to the State of Maryland. The collection primarily consists of Pre-Contact material culture including a likely Clovis point.

On October 18, ORV Day took place and Zac finished the collection of GPR data at Whitehall. Two area (one along the “Holly Lane” and another in a field south of that produced anomalies of interest. The anomalies along Holly Lane are somewhat amorphous and pit-like. The anomalies in the field south of Holly Lane include two 8 x 8 ft rectangular anomalies, one 5.5 x 5.5 ft anomaly and eleven 2.5 x 2.5 ft rectangular structures. These features would benefit from ground-truthing investigations.

On November 4, Zac and Matt visited the Point Field site in Centreville, MD to assist Troy on a compliance project. Zac and Matt noted shell midden features eroding along the edges of the site and recovered a likely Jack’s Reef Pentagonal point made of quartz along the shoreline. Zac and Matt conducted a MagSusc survey across the Point Field landform, but no anomalously high readings suggestive of anthropogenic activity were found.

On November 5-7, Zac participated in the virtual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation. Zac and Matt coauthored a presentation on the MD Fluted Point Survey, which was part of a Paleoindian session.

On November 17, Zac gave a guest lecture on *mdFIND* for the FDA’s GIS Day. Interesting objects recently reported via *mdFIND* include a Savannah River point from Windward Key Beach, a sherd of delft from Rodgers Tavern Museum, a colonial pipe stem from Swan Harbor Farm, and a large quartz boulder (misidentified as a crystal skull) from Waldorf, MD.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Proposed Change to Technical Update No. 1: Collections and Conservation Standards—  
(Rebecca Morehouse/Patricia Samford)

The Committee heard a brief presentation on the proposed changes which eliminates the need to provide an acid-free copy of site documentation records in favor of receiving a digital copy instead as backup. The Committee discussed the proposed change with Marian Creveling making a motion of support. The motion was seconded by Stephen and approved by All

The Committee heard a brief presentation on possible transfer opportunities for African American Human Remains in MHT’s care. MHT currently has human remains from 73 individuals in its possession at the MAC Lab and of these, 13 sets of human remains are

determined to be of African or possible African descent. While MHT is committed to being a custodian for these remains in a manner that is consistent with state law and regulation, the agency would welcome the opportunity to return them to the care of culturally affiliated descendant communities. Recent changes to the State's Regulations for the Transfer of Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects and the successful transfer of the Smith Price remains to the care of the Mt. Moriah AME Church in 2019 identify a path forward for achieving this goal. The memo reviewed by the Committee identified the African American human remains in the possession of MHT and outlined a consultative process aimed at addressing the future of these remains. A motion to support the proposed consultative process was made by Stephen Brighton and seconded by Don Housley. The Motion was approved by All.

Jane Cox, on behalf of MACA presented a resolution of Appreciation for Charlie Hall's years of service to archaeology within the State.

**Selection of Next Meeting Date** — Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Board conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m., in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Stephen Brighton; the motion was unanimously approved.