



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
December 7, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Matt McKnight, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Hughes, Zac Singer, Dixie Henry, Stephanie Soder, Nell Ziehl,

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

Review of the September 7, 2022 MACA meeting minutes:

The September 7, 2022, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

(Re)Introduction of Stephanie Soder — Matt McKnight

Matt McKnight introduced MHT's new Research Archaeologist, Stephanie Soder. Ms. Soder is a former MHT intern which some members of the committee may remember and will be filling the vacancy left by Zac Singer's promotion to State Terrestrial Archaeologist.

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes provided an update on the operating budget for FY24. Ms. Hughes also provided some guidance regarding the preparation of any transition memo or document that MACA might wish to provide to the incoming administration. There was brief discussion by the group of what recommendations the committee might wish to put forward in such a letter.

Ms. Hughes reminded several members of the need to re-submit appointment paperwork.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Matt provided an overview of the process used to select Stephanie Soder (present) for the Research Archaeologist position.

MHT continues to make progress on revisions to the *Standards and Guidelines*. Matt has turned his attention towards layout and is using a slightly adapted version of the design template that was used for the 2018 Architectural Standards and Guidelines.

Matt continues to work with Dennis Curry on his *Canavest* manuscript. Dennis' mapping work was originally done in a now defunct version of Visio and Matt worked with DoIT to get the original files into a format that could be imported to ArcMap. After considerable cleanup, Dennis came in and we were able to re-generate in a higher res form the artifact distribution and other maps for his book. Lara Westwood, who heads up MHT publications, has solicited bids from 3 companies to design and layout the book.

The September edition of *Maryland Archeology* is complete and available in Joomag. It features an article on a 17th-century site on PAX River NAS by Sara River-Cofield and Michael Hornum, and an article on the Hollingsworth Farm Site by Bob Wall (a follow-up reporting from a Field Session a few seasons ago).

We've completed the selection process for MHT Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants. MHT received 23 grant applications totaling just shy of 1 million dollars in requests. We, once again, only had \$300,000 to distribute. We recommended 11 projects for partial funding, including 5 projects for archaeology. The funded projects represent 1 statewide project and 8 counties plus Baltimore City (including two projects in Maryland State Waters). Unfortunately, after "Happy Letters" went out we learned that one of the grantees had burned bridges with the property owner and that one of the projects will not be moving forward. A determination of what to do with the \$9,000 from that project has not yet been made.

Matt reports that Non-Caps from prior fiscal years move forward without significant problems.

On 9/9, Elizabeth and Matt met with the Baltimore Museum of Industry to discuss their support of privy digging in Baltimore. We expressed our concerns and the issues involved. On a related note, Matt has agreed to participate in a panel discussion along with the Delaware SHPO, NPS, Virginia and New Jersey State Archaeologists, CfMA, CoVA, and City of Alexandria that is going to be held at the MAAC meetings in March on privy digging and relic hunting entitled "Relic Hunting and Professional Archaeology Revisited". Recently the City of Alexandria has been dealing with many of the same issues as Baltimore and the mayor has even mentioned the prospect of legislative changes to put a stop to it.

On 9/22, Matt and Zac visited Mt. Calvert to conduct some GPR survey work where M-NCPPC had encountered a 17th-century feature during installation of utility lines along the road reading into the site. We collected about a 30 x 30 m block of data before we got rained out.

On 10/6, Elizabeth and Matt held an initial meeting with the MCIA to discuss the future disposition of Native American remains that were either mis-identified or recently discovered to be human, derived from a number of projects and undertakings. We will be needing to update our NAGPRA inventory and taking some other steps (in consultation with MCIA) but we are just beginning that process and have legal involved to answer some questions.

On 10/13, Zac and Matt visited Old Otterbein United Methodist Church in downtown Baltimore. We were contacted by Reverend McCubbin, who showed us artifacts that volunteers had accidentally unearthed while pulling weeds on the property. We will be returning on December 14 to collect some GPR data in the church yard.

On 11/5, Matt gave the keynote address to the National Society of the Claiborne Family Descendants which was holding their Reunion meeting in Annapolis. Some members of the Kent Island Heritage Society were also in attendance and have asked Matt to give the talk in March at their Annual Meeting and to engage with some property owners we are interested in speaking to.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Susan reported that since the September meeting, Troy has presented a session about Compliance to a 3-day NOAA sponsored Oil and Hazmat Spill training held in Grasonville. He also made a presentation about the Battle of Kedges Strait at the Cultural Center on Smith Island. He continues to offer guidance to the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Research Group (BAREG) on their research project on the U-1105 under an MHT non-capital grant.

Susan made presentations at the MD/DC PEPCO Environmental Conference in Cambridge, at the North East Library in Cecil County, and at the Maryland Club in Baltimore. She noted that she would be making presentations in 2023 at Tilghman Island for the Watermen's Museum, at the Elkton Library, and at the Bear Library in NewCastle, DE.

At the annual Dive Safety Board meeting, one member stepped down (Mr. David Howe) and one member died unexpectedly (Dr. Richard Kelton). As there were six members on the DSB and it is only mandated to have five, only one position needs to be filled. After discussion, the Board agreed to invite Ms. Madeline Roth from NOAA. Maddie, formerly interned at MHT and, accepted the invitation.

Susan participated in the Society for Historical Archaeology's annual Governmental Affairs Committee and is also the liaison to the Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology. She mistakenly reported she would complete her ACUA term at the annual SHA meeting in January but has since learned her term ends in another year. The SHA meeting will be held in Lisbon in January and Susan will be there representing Government Maritime Managers, sits on ACUA, the UNESCO Committee and the Heritage at Risk Committee as well as participating on a NOAA-sponsored climate change panel.

She commented on two projects that will be receiving MHT non-capital grants. The Institute of Maritime History (IMH) will be undertaking remote sensing survey around St. George's Island based on new research undertaken by Preservation Maryland through an American Battlefields Protection Program grant. The other grant is to East Carolina University which is undertaking research at Malloys Bay; field schools, one completed MA, two MSc theses underway and one doctoral dissertation in progress. These theses and dissertation all involve studying climate change and resource management through the study of microbiomes at the sanctuary.

The Maritime Archaeology Program was finally able to obtain the heavy duty truck it needs to tow the large research vessel safely. It took four years and was mostly paid for by the MHT Board, for which the Program is profoundly grateful. A waterjet motor for the metal hulled jon boat is still on order but will facilitate survey in shallow rocky areas once it arrives. Susan noted that a lack of appropriate storage and lack of staff remain significant shortcomings for the Program.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between September and December, Dr. Singer reviewed two applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits and provided formal consultation on four historic cemeteries.

Zac reported that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 8 volunteers. The lab volunteers have completed 50% of the project of rehousing and cataloging materials generated from the 1969 excavation of the Middle to Late Woodland Reeves Sites.

Zac also reported that he is serving on the MHT Easement committee and the MHT Annual Meeting committee (which held a successful meeting on November 14th).

On 9/16, Zac visited with two artifact collectors at a farm in Williamsport, MD. One of the collectors had reported finding a vast archaeological site comprised of crude chopping tools. Zac did find a few flakes of quartz and rhyolite suggesting a Pre-Contact site was present, but the “chopping tools” that had been reported were not artifacts. They were greywacke slabs modified by agricultural plowing.

On 9/22, Zac and Matt assisted the Prince George’s County archaeological office with a GPR survey to document colonial features identified via monitoring of a small construction trench at Mount Calvert. The GPR survey identified an area of interest that is suggestive of a colonial structure.

Zac gave a talk on “The Paleoindian Period in Maryland” to the Western Chapter of ASM on 9/23. Zac also examined John Domenic’s artifact collection from western MD, including a fluted point from Barton.

From 9/26-29, Zac, Matt and many volunteers from the ASM conducted a shovel test pit survey (123 STPs) at Seneca Creek State Park to attempt to locate the Paleoindian component at Pierpoint site area A.

On 10/7, Zac visited the MAC Lab to examine the Mac McDaniel collection from Pierpoint. Zac was searching for a black chert fluted point that McDaniel reported to have found at the. The fluted point was not located in the donated collection.

On 10/12, Zac and Becky Morehouse met with Lauren Schiszik (archaeology planner with Baltimore City) and staff at the Mount Clare Museum to discuss their planned artifact exhibit. MHT holds an easement on the Mount Clare artifacts.

On 10/18, Zac assisted Carol Ebright with the delivery of her lithic geological sample collection and lithic technology teaching collection to the MAC Lab. This collection is a wonderful resource for sourcing toolstones on Maryland archaeological sites and for teaching lithic technology.

Zac visited with Dan Coates at the Cecil County Historical Society to examine the Lindsey Price collection of Pre-Contact artifacts from Cecil County on 10/20. Dan and the CCHS have done a wonderful job cataloging the artifacts and associated documentation from Mr. Price.

On 10/26, Zac and Matt participated in an MHT visit to Old Ellicott City Jail to discuss the potential for an archaeology easement on the property. A jail related archaeological site was discovered and impacted in the 80s due to road construction, so impacts to archaeological resources should be considered during future development of the property.

From 11/3-11/6, Zac participated in the Eastern States Archaeological Federation’s Annual meeting, which was hosted at Shippensburg University. Zac participated in an organized session on South Mountain rhyolite and presented on rhyolite artifacts in the MAC Lab’s collection.

On 11/18, Zac joined DNR folks on a site visit to Indian Creek NRMA to meet with a local stakeholder who reported that he had potentially discovered a Civil War related burial ground. MHT has agreed to conduct a remote sensing survey on a portion of property.

Zac will be leading a kickoff meeting for Maryland Archaeology Month planning on 12/12.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

The MAC Lab is nearing the end of the design phase of the expansion project and we will be having a meeting hopefully later this month to go over the final plans. DGS has indicated that the job will be put out to bid in January, with construction starting in April. We are requesting bids for moving and storing oversized artifacts during the expansion, but we anticipate storing the boxed collections in place. Becky Morehouse has been going through oversized collections and working with Matt and Tricia to deaccession artifacts that have no context or are unidentifiable.

Lab staff are working with Greg Brown on reformatting the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* website and substantial progress has been made on the overall design. Sara Rivers Cofield continues to work on creating sections for horse-related artifacts and Tricia is working on sections for eating utensils.

Work continues with volunteers on cataloging of the Stearn's Site (18CV17), a Middle and Late Woodland shell midden and village site located on the park and dug by Laurie Steponaitis in the 1980s.

Twenty one boxes of artifacts from the 1980s CHRS excavation at the Brice House in Annapolis have been received and are being rehoused.

Carol Ebright donated her lithic teaching collection. It has been accessioned into comparative collections.

The Wallville community study funded by a NPS grant is underway. We have a steering committee of 8 community descendants and held our first meeting with this very enthusiastic group in mid-November and will continue to meet monthly. Project staff has done background research at Maryland State Archives, the Calvert County Historical Society and the Calvert Marine Museum, gathering historical documents and oral histories that relate to the community. We anticipate that field work on about seven sites will take place in March and April of 2023.

The lab has gotten funding for the purchase of a total station and for an RTI dome. RTI (reflective transformation imaging) is a computational photographic method that captures a subject's surface shape and color and enables the interactive re-lighting of the subject from any direction.

In Conservation, a large collection of artifacts from a site dug in the 1980s in Philadelphia has come in for an x-ray survey and cleaning of a large collection of leather artifacts.

Nichole and Tricia accepted the Ben Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award for conservation services provided by the MAC Lab.

Staff have attended a lot of outreach events this fall, the St. Mary's and Calvert County fairs, the Nause-Waiwash Native American Festival, the Patuxent River Appreciation Days, Lower Marlboro Freedom Day, Spirits and Steeds Freedom Hill Horse Rescue event, U.S Oyster Festival.

Tricia and Scott have been writing a lot of grants this fall – Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, two for the National Endowments for the Humanities, and one Institute of Museum and Library Services grant for archaeology-related park initiatives.

The MAC Lab is putting together a session for the MAAC meetings on the Smith St. Leonard site.

The new collections technician, Megan Kearns, will be joining us in early January to take the position formerly held by Alice Merkel.

Eric Frere joined JPPM as its Deputy Director in mid-October.

Discovering Archaeology Day will be held on 4/15.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

The Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide technical assistance to program customers via hybrid office/telework, conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, in-person site visits and meetings, and participation in interagency working groups.

Project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in October and November of 2022, the PRC unit reviewed a total of 477 state and federal projects.

Beth Cole continues to work on our E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP. Active work on the development and testing of the E-106 electronic submittal process resumed in November. The E-106 Team comprised of MDP IT and MHT staff is meeting weekly to advance progress on this project. Beth is devoting considerable time to extensive testing of the E-106 system for Submitter and MHT Reviewer pages including: adding multiple new projects with attachments; testing project review functions and email functions for submitted, accepted, incomplete and rejected responses; and preparing written comments for Team meetings. MDP IT is still working on developing the various needed email project review completion responses and refinement of layout, fields, and data tips still needs to be completed. MHT remains hopeful for E-106 rollout in 2023.

Dixie has also continued working on drafting revisions/updates to the “Reports and Documentation” section of the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Maryland*.

Beth and Dixie have participated in multiple interagency coordination meetings including: monthly JE meetings with MDE/COE et al., MDOT, and the NPS.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Stephanie has consolidated Zac’s list of reports/sites with an updated list that covers the timer period from 2019 until now. The list consists of 263 total sites, 54 of which are completed as of today (12/7).

Stephanie is currently inputting the reports already written up by Zac that had not been fed into Access. There are 11 reports so far, covering Prince George's County, Montgomery, Frederick, and Baltimore Counties.

Stephanie reports that she began writing synopses for sites in Montgomery and Prince George's County; 5 reports are started, covering 7 sites. These reports are drafted, but not yet included in the database.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. McKnight provided a list of committee members that would need to resubmit appointment paperwork to continue serving on the committee. Joy Beasley stated that she would not be seeking re-appointment due to the changing nature of her job at NPS. Chairperson Cox stated that she planned to renew her appointment, but that she would prefer to step down as chairperson. Matt relayed that the chair has to be selected from among the existing committee members and so we would need to entertain nominations and discussion of a new chair at an upcoming meeting.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m., in a motion made by Marian Creveling and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was unanimously approved.