

Michigan Underwater Salvage & Preserves Committee

Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: April 14, 2021

Roll call

Present for the Michigan Underwater Salvage & Preserves
Committee:

- Chris Antieau
- Joseph Bower
- Ron Bloomfield
- Sandra Clark, chair
- Jeremiah Edson
- Stephen Kroll
- Wayne Lusardi
- Nathan Murphy
- David Shaw

Partners to the Michigan Underwater Salvage & Preserves
Committee:

- Dan Friedhoff, representing the Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Preserve
- Dan Harrison, Wayne State University Maritime Archaeologist
- Weston Hillier, EGLE, Environmental Quality Analyst
- Stacy Tchorzynski, acting State of Michigan Archaeologist
- Matt Smar, EGLE, Federal Consistency Specialist
- Brian R. Smith, Tuskegee Airmen National Museum
- Nick Atkin; DNR GLEU
- Sheri Giffin, Executive Secretary for Michigan History Center

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Clark called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Clark suggested to move the permit update to the top of the agenda. Edson moved the updated agenda order; Murphy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bloomfield moved to approve the February 24, 2021 minutes; the motions was seconded by Edson and motion passed unanimously.

The committee noted, with sadness, the passing of Tom Graf. Graf served on the committee since the inception.

New Permit Applications

EGLE will issue the salvage permit for P39 with the same conditions as the last permit.

Smith stated the goal of the permit is to bring the large pieces and the remainder of what will be recovered. Smith also outlined the plans for the preservation process, education goals and documentation of the entire process.

Edson recommended of the approval of the application; Kroll seconded, and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Strategy Implementation Priorities:

National Register Nominations

Harrison is searching for documentation on the impact of towing policy after of the sinking of the *Lauren Castle*. He is reaching out to current tug operators to make the connection for the National Register Nomination.

Buoy Project

Bloomfield has been following up on an informational lead to the John Jacob Astor or pieces of the John Jacob Astor. The current buoy list is confirmed and ready for deployment.

Lusardi received a short list of the new installs. Please alert Lusardi of any deployed buoys and he will pass them on the Coast Guard as updates to the electronic charts.

The *Wasaga* may be a new buoy in Copper Harbor in the Keweenaw Underwater Preserve, however, the wreck has not been confirmed.

Economic Impact Case

Hillier will not be able to advise on this task, but he is willing to continue making connections with the shoreline and lighthouse communities for possible partnerships.

Interpretive Panels

Bloomfield brought up the interpretive panels at the last MUPC meeting to gauge partnership interest. Bloomfield and Friedhoff offered to pilot a trial in the Straits Preserve. Friedhoff advise on possible signage sites and resources. Bloomfield will investigate funding and manage the pilot program as a possible template for future use with other preserves.

Hillier announced EGLE grants should open in October and he is willing to assist with the grant part of the pilot.

Pure Michigan

Krueger and Clark have information on the *Joseph S. Fay* from the USPC committee. They are working on writing the story for the Pure Michigan blog. Bower offered to help with writing and editing the article.

Committee Member Reports:

Law Enforcement

Shaw invited Corporal Nick Atkin from DNR Law Enforcement team to join the meeting. Atkin is the Commercial Fish Specialist, and he is willing to lend his skills for the P39 project.

Public Comment:

Harrison and the Noble Odyssey Foundation were approved to help with the Tuskegee project.

Hillier shared that the Coastal Zone Management program has been invited to talk to the International Lighthouse Conference in early June. Hillier will mention the committee and the strategic plan to connect the various groups with common goals.

New Business:

Bloomfield reported on renewed interest in the Manitou Preserve. They hope to expand the preserves boundaries to include new wreck finds.

Don Fassbender is interested in leading the Marquette Preserve in coordinating harbor clean up. Recently he has received push back from the local community about historical artifacts in the water. Fassbender has experience discerning between possible artifacts and trash but would like to have guidance from the Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserves Committee on items that can be directly discarded. Antieau and Clark can give a written response as representatives from EGLE and DNR if that will help Fassbender move forward with the cleanup project.

Clark requested USPC consider updating the law that governs the committee. Due to changes throughout the years, the guidelines and wording have become obsolete. Clark asked for a formal recommendation by the committee to update wording, processes and guidelines in the law for clarification for the committee as well as for the public. After discussion, Murphy made an advisory motion revise to the law; Bloomfield supported the motion and the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. Murphy and Harrison offered to help writing the revisions.

Old Business:

Tchorzynski announced the annual Michigan Historical Preservation Network conference in May. Scholarships are available.

Adjournment:

There being no further business Antieau moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.