

**NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
31 JANUARY 2021
ZOOM
1:00 P.M.**

Attendance: LCM, Petersen, Nisch, Hill, Mohler, Krizmanich, Fitts, Cranford, Henderson, Purvis, Watkins-Kenney, and Bell. Guests: Beaman, Davis.

Petersen called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

He welcomed two new board directors, Watkins-Kenney and Hill. Nisch asked if we had ever recorded our BOD meetings and the secretary replied yes, and when and why we stopped doing it that way (i.e. time-consuming to transcribe, length of minutes, unreliable tape decks, etc.). Hill asked if we could record them now (again) and LCM replied only if we had a way to secure the content and decide where best to store the recordings. Petersen asked that we hold on that until a later discussion. He mentioned the extra burdens everyone carries right now and that we should “cut ourselves a little bit of slack” and try to reach reasonable objectives. He does not want any of us to burn out.

LCM issued the minutes from the 11 October 2020 BOD meeting for review. As there were no edits or changes, Cranford made a motion that they be accepts, seconded by Mohler. BOD voted to accept minutes and LCM will send them to Davis for the webpage inclusion.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Fitts then presented the treasurer’s quarterly report (could not get on screen share, so she talked it through). She was encouraged by what she sees as an up-tick in current membership and thinks we are approaching membership totals of the past. Currently we have 258 members. Petersen asked if we could get another renewal notice out soon. The treasurer outlined the expenses for Volume 69, the cost of our new brochures (1000), Paypal, income and other annual expenditures. Fitts explained the cost of our own NCAS Zoom account as an annual fee of \$149.90. LCM mentioned that our annual CoAS membership would be coming up soon and she will send it to Fitts for payment (\$34.00). Beaman will explain his new stock purchases under the stock report coming up. As there was no further discussion Cranford made a motion to accept treasurer’s report, seconded by Nisch and then approved by BOD vote.

Cranford then presented the editor’s report. He said the cost of printing 350 copies of Volume 69 (via Lulu) was \$1,222.74, with mailing and shipping was \$1,499.89. He thanked Davis and the RLA for labeling and mail out of the journal. Currently he has one manuscript in hand for the next volume and expects (as promised) two more feature articles. Cranford expressed concern about obtaining good quality articles for publication and suggested we reach out to academic program and faculty to get more student contributors doing new research. Beaman promised a revised paper on delft tiles for the next issue. SWK asked about the deadline for journal and the editor replied by the end of August.

Mohler presented his newsletter report next. He stated that he likes the content at about six pages. He asked about a negative comment from a NCAS member about the content of the last newsletter, that he was unaware of it until he read the minutes. He asked that such comments come to him for discussion prior to being in the minutes. He asked the BOD to send any negative comments about the newsletter to him directly. Like Cranford he expressed concern for the lack of response re: content or contributions for the next issue. He mentioned Krizmanich submitted an article about the West Site to him already, but he needs more to complete the issue. He also has an article by Forest Hazel on local mining. It sounded like most folks enjoyed the word search puzzle, so Beaman will create another and send to the newsletter editor. Other topics for new content included photos of a mystery object to be identified, or something similar to attract our younger members. Mohler also mentioned a "spotlight" on Wake County Registry of Deeds recent find of "rescued maps" to feature. Beaman also mentioned an SAA link to the recent obituary of Lee Novick, a former state archaeologist. Mohler plans to ask other colleagues about recent work on the new I-540 corridor archaeology. Other BOD members mentioned including a blurb about the new movie *The Dig*, which features discovery of the Sutton Hoo site. SWK agreed/offered to write short piece to explain more about British Antiquities laws, maybe targeted for the spring issue. Nisch said she plans to discuss the movie on the NCAS Facebook page and solicit comments and exchange there where it reaches more people. The BOD discussion then shifted to new book reviews and whether or not they should be included in the newsletter (as endorsement or announcement). It was decided that if a new book had undergone peer review then it qualified to an announcement in the NCAS newsletter. Krizmanich suggested we use an "editor's pick" to talk about new books, indicating it is the editor's choice and may/may not be endorsed by the NCAS. Petersen stated we need to explain our policy upfront on advertising books, explain how we pick and why, add a disclaimer that an announcement is not necessarily an endorsement. Hill explained that many books are advertised on social media already and that forum is more flexible. Nisch asked about advertising children's books on the NCAS Facebook page. Beaman suggested that new books which get reviewed and those reviews published in our NCAS should be included in the newsletter and social media. Purvis suggested we follow a lead or protocol for endorsement set by SAA or another national organization and always include a disclaimer statement. SWK then recommended that we publish a list of books and add links for the patron or member to then further pursue on their own. Petersen said we should hold off on endorsements and just stick to book reviews in our journal, let that be our endorsement statement. Mohler agreed to table the book review discussion for now and proceed with caution. Petersen stated we can continue to do book reviews for our journal but hold off on book advertisements in the newsletter and we will review this topic soon. Davis noted it's unfortunate we cannot "separate the wheat from the shaft" and include books we can clearly see are in keeping to the NCAS mission. Nisch suggested we try a moderated forum to discuss new books. She wants to write a short piece on African-American history and archaeology for the newsletter for February.

Beaman gave his stock report. He reported that because of the pandemic situation all public gatherings and events were cancelled which meant all sales were directly done by our NCAS webpage or Facebook inquiry. Still in January 2020, he had 171 pieces of stock. He recently reordered out-of-stock sized which added 103 pieces of new shirts totaling \$1,087.25. Last year's sales totaled 23 pieces, and comped one shirt to the artist who help design the gorget shirt. Currently he has 248 pieces of stock. He thanked the

newsletter editor for the advertisement space and thinks that is great exposure. Nisch stated she wants to talk to him about online ordering if he wishes to let someone else do it.

Petersen then called for committee chairs to present their reports. Nisch summarized her agenda on membership. Her goals of automated membership sign up has been a goal, thanks for help from Fitts. She would like to get more people to run for available seats on the BOD, so there is more choice. Petersen said we as BOD member should help by reaching out to known members or our colleagues, offer them a chance to serve and contribute. He stated we should all be thinking of suitable people to serve and get busy networking. Krizmanich recommended we put in a blurb about recruitment in the next newsletter. SWK asked about student memberships and can student members sit on the BOD. Something to consider in the future. The BOD agreed we need to seek more diversity on our BOD as well as a mix of avocationalists and professionals.

Purvis then presented the events committees activities. She said some plans made early on are still being explored but nothing is yet conclusive or on the calendar as such. She stated we should all make smaller achievable goals as we go forward until "normal times" return. Short videos of "behind the scenes" in some archaeology labs is one goal still in pursuit. Plans to get to Somerset SHS for a walking tour did not materialize but an agreement is in place to continue planning for this event. She hopes to focus on the short videos until things open up for public visitation. She indicated script writing will soon be underway, and editing will be needed, anyone can help. Petersen wants the videos to generation more questions than just talking points. He cited a recent video by NC DOT on cemeteries as an example of the amount of time it takes to pull this off. He recommended we "stay local and stay small" to launch this new initiative (for example, using the RLA and OSA labs as future targets for Behind the Scenes). He said we need to get our method down first, targeting a pared down 20-minute tour. Davis asked if the tours will be taped or live events. He replied that airing will be pre-recorded live to test the method, perhaps later moving towards a question-and-answer format. Fitts asked if we want to limit a term (?). Purvis suggested we create a YouTube channel, with external drive (she will check on costs). Petersen said he wants to keep our objectives on time. Nisch responded we are setting the bar too high. She suggested putting a new segment on the NCAS webpage to view selected videos.

Henderson presented communications report. He provided a rough layout of monthly items to achieve, using this guideline of topics to the end of 2021. He offered, for example, themes of History, Lithics, and Citizen Scientists. He indicated up to 4 posts per week, up to 8 per month on the selected topic or theme. He created a flow chart for how to make it work. He said anyone (NCAS BOD) can post on these platforms to help share the work and information. He suggested vetting a flowchart to make the process successful, also for consistency and precaution. Beaman and Nisch are currently co-managers of the NCAS Facebook page but that one or two other moderators are needed, again to share the work and information. Krizmanich said the Facebook link is the most active with frequent posts. Members are often posting questions or content and the communications committee needs to be part of this exchange; he asked who is managing the inquiries. The BOD agreed the cross-purpose of the communication and the membership committees should share responsibility on this forum. Petersen encouraged all BOD members to contribute where they can. LCM asked if other managers of the Facebook are helping to vet new members and what criteria is being used. SWK asked if we were talking

about NCAS membership or Facebook membership. SWK asked how can Facebook members be directed to the webpage site. Petersen replied these are two different platforms. Nisch asked how much should we offer our Facebook friends vs. real members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Petersen introduced a draft of a Land Statement he had received from Bell, later edited by Davis. There was some general discussion about the tribes included in the land acknowledgement and LCM asked about other federally-recognized nations that consider North Carolina their cultural heritage land, should they also be included or named in this statement. Someone noted that first contact nations may exist today as other groups, and how do we or some other agency sort that out, is that the NC Commission of Indian Affairs or who else? Cranford mentioned the number and variety of groups known historically across the state. Bell wishes to identify all tribal entities and included a second paragraph to include all groups we have on record. LCM suggested we have a generalized statement and then include a listing of all groups known as a separation addition. Bell would also like to see maps of historical groups and regions within the state added to this document. Davis mentioned the maps already done and included in the *Ancient Carolinians* interactive webpage. Petersen stated it is not a BOD choice and we should not think of it as all inclusive, but he thinks we should craft a statement acknowledging all heritage families and ancestors and include current cultural groups. Someone asked what will the NCAS do with this land statement, is the intent to post it on our webpage? Will it be used in museums, on maps and given to membership? Krizmanich said we should include something about displaced people as well. Petersen and Bell agreed that just discussing it is an improvement, recognizing the past and present transitions. Petersen asked the BOD to please send any further comments to him and we should vote on this at a future meeting.

Petersen asked all BOD members to send forward any names for potential new members so that the fall elections will be successful. He said we need to get out ahead of the election season and start asking members soon to take a seat on the board. Mohler agreed to add a blurb to the summer newsletter.

Next was a discussion about the new NCAS webpage content. Someone suggested we add more popular educational content. Petersen wanted to add some content tailored to youth, like what is an archaeologist? He recorded a book-reading session and suggested more kids' books to share on this topic would be a plus. Beaman again mentioned he would like to see the list of past presidents put back on the webpage content, as it represents the longevity of our society and how far we've come. He thinks the list of previous meetings/events/venues is equally important to demonstrate history of our group and its diversity. Davis agreed to get those to Nisch for inclusion. Other discussion centered on Zoom discussions such as "ask an archaeologist" and "how to find the archaeologist nearest you". He suggested we do this as an event once or twice a year. Beaman suggested we also include underwater archaeologists to the discussion. Hill said he would write up a proposal and send to Purvis and the events committee. Discussions returned to the watch party idea. SWK suggested we add more links on the webpage to other related events across the state and in the nation. She said it was rather depressing to see the events link on the webpage empty when there are lots of other options out there in the world of archaeology.

Nisch asked if the Town Creek site excavation would happen or not. Cranford said it will not happen until the covid pandemic is no longer a safety issue. He said it may happen in spring 2022.

LCM mentioned the upcoming SEAC student reception on Friday, Feb. 5th.

Petersen suggested we do a practice watch party and see how it works before making any further arrangements or announcements.

LCM made a motion to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Linda Carnes-McNaughton, RPA

NCAS BOD Secretary