
NYAC MEMBERSHIP NOTE

TO: NYAC MEMBERSHIP
FROM: CS WEED (PRESIDENT)
SUBJECT: JULY AND AUGUST UPDATES AND REQUESTS FOR FEEDBACK
DATE: JULY 29, 2022

This note provides information on the upcoming Fall Meeting, updated items, and a current item. First up, the Fall Meeting.

A. NYAC Fall Meeting, October 1 (Saturday), New York State Museum, Huxley Theatre (opens at 9:30am)

NYAC Board Meeting (10:30am to 12:30pm with lunch provided), agenda pending

12:30-12:45 Break

NYAC Fall Program (1:00-4:30pm)

12:45-1:45 Moderator (CSWeed)

Officer Reports

Committee Report

1:45-2:00pm Break

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Program. Organizer, Sissie Pipes. Current participants (awaiting confirmation on a few others): Ed Curtin, Matt Kirk, Mike Lucas, Allison McGovern, Doug Perrelli, and Sissie Pipes.

The Current State of African American Archaeology in New York

Abstract: Contrary to popular belief, the percentage of slave-holding households was higher in New York than many places in the South. Unlike the plantation economies to the south, enslaved people in the North rarely lived in clusters of separate quarters. Most often, enslaved people of African and Indigenous descent lived in the main house, an outer kitchen, or other multi-functional outbuilding. Such complex households as well as Free and Maroon communities have been investigated on archaeological projects in urban and rural settings. Surprisingly, there are few publications which address these households and communities that existed in New York. Only in cases where a household or a community was known to have been occupied by African Americans are deposits considered reflections of their lives. Archaeologists have struggled to interpret the lives of enslaved people through the material culture of plural households. Recent investigations, however, suggest that there are ways of 'seeing' African Americans in diverse households. This program brings together archaeologists to share what they have learned from their experiences working with plural households and communities in New York, suggestions for better material culture analyses, and the importance of working with descendant populations and vested communities.

B. Update: Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act (NYS S5701) and Montaukett Indian Nation Recognition (NYS S6889)

As reported in the Newsletter, both bills were passed and sent forward. We still don't have resolution to the status of both bills, however, and I did not receive a reply to the June 28th query or a subsequent one on July 26th. I called the Governor's office on July 29th and was passed on to NYOPRHP. In turn, that office sent my request on to Megan Fitzgerald (NYOPRHP Deputy Commissioner Intergovernmental Affairs).

Allison McGovern reported that the Montaukett met in early July with a representative of the Governor's Office to discuss the Recognition bill. There was no conclusion of substance at that meeting.

C. Update: Army Priority Initiatives

On June 22, 2022, Kristy Primeau and I attended the virtual overview meeting introducing the US Army Corps Civil Works Priority Initiatives. We also virtually attended the sessions dealing with Tribal Consultation (July 11) and Appendix C (July 14). You can watch all three meetings at <https://www.army.mil/asacw>. The Army is accepting written comments until August 2nd on any of their initiatives.

As many of you have as well, I have worked on projects that had to consider both an Appendix C undertaking area and a Section 106 APE. Based on those experiences, I firmly believe that USACE is doing a disservice to the spirit of Section 106 with their area-constrained undertakings. Except for Kristy and David Witt, however, I did not receive comments from others who might have attended the virtual sessions. Therefore, I have not proposed to submit a comment letter to USACE from NYAC.

D. New Item: NYSHPO, Virtual CRIS Sessions (August 9-11, 10:30am-Noon)

Beginning Aug 9, the NYSHPO CRIS Help group (Mike Schifferli and Matt Shepard) is holding three 90-minute workshops concerning areas for CRIS improvement. Some of you may already have received the invitation. For those of you who did not, the workshop invitations are below. Also included in each invitation is a list of that session's topics which were generated from an initial survey sent to CRIS users. If you have questions, contact Mike Schifferli directly. His contact information is at the end of meeting topics.

Workshop **One** on **Tuesday, August 9, 2022** from 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or join by entering a meeting ID

Meeting ID: 280 533 455 806

Passcode: 8Ta5dv

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 518-801-9699](tel:+15188019699), [952619670#](tel:+15188019699) United States, Albany

Phone Conference ID: 952 619 670#

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Meeting One will focus on the areas of:

Submission Workflows (8 comments received)

- a. Consultation Submission Forms (3)
 - 162 (“Make more user friendly”)
 - 15 (“drawing the project location”)
 - 110 (“enhanced functionality for projects with additional SHPO requirements”)
- b. Survey Submission Forms (1)
 - 46 (“surveys should require responders to answer every question”)
- c. Resource Submission Forms (2)
 - 78 (“Create a ‘wizard’ for adding site information”)
 - 61 (“ability to report resources mapped in the wrong location/that have incorrect information”)
- d. Email Notifications (2)
 - 126 (“hard to navigate”)
 - 103 (“The email notifications are sometimes unclear”)

Workshop **Two** on **Wednesday, August 10, 2022** from 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or join by entering a meeting ID

Meeting ID: 260 863 952 786

Passcode: FpHfUr

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 518-801-9699,,216767387#](#) United States, Albany

Phone Conference ID: 216 767 387#

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Workshop Two will focus on the areas of:

Display (9 comment)

- a. Maps (4)
 - 141 (“easier way for the general public to see if properties have historic designations/archaeo”)
 - 125/138/160 (submission mapping tools)
- b. Interface (5)
 - 111 (“one program (CRIS and Trekker combined)”)
 - 66/165 (timeout period)
 - 156/197 (finding information)

Workshop **Three**, on **Thursday, August 11, 2022** from 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or join by entering a meeting ID

Meeting ID: 226 107 579 166

Passcode: NAZHMd

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 518-801-9699,,300642000#](#) United States, Albany

Phone Conference ID: 300 642 000#

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will focus on the areas of:

Data Management (10)

- a. Dashboard (1)
 - 64 (“clogging up the dashboard”)
- b. Profile (2)
 - 44/54 (saved contacts)
- c. Search (3)
 - 198 (“spatial search feature as a default method to find information”)
 - 196 (“existing documentation...easier to access...via the map”)
 - 192 (“easier to search for resources and for the results to be clearly understandable”)
- d. Reporting (2)
 - 163 (“I haven’t been able to download search results tables consistently”)
 - 172 (“ability to extract the data”)
- e. Data Access (1)
 - 81 (“access to correspondence from invited or other consulting parties on projects”)
 - Outreach (1) 143 (“occasional training session”)

Mike

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