



**Minutes**  
**Gateways Network Working Group Meeting**  
**At Annapolis Maritime Museum**  
**October 9, 2002**

**Present:** Elizabeth Hughes, Pat Stuntz, Melanie Teems, Ron Weiss, Bob Carter, Robert Pickett, Wilmer Henninger, Maria Vonderheid, Marci Ross, Bob Campbell, Skip Meehan, Marian Huber, Jonathan Doherty, Jeff Holland, Peg Wallace

Working Group members reviewed minutes of the July 11 meeting. Robert Pickett noted the minutes incorrectly state that he was in attendance at the meeting. No other modifications were made.

**Review of Pending Nominations:**

***Caledon Natural Area:*** Marian Huber reviewed the findings and recommendations of the NPS review. Members approved Caledon Natural Area for designation as a Gateway site.

***Wharves at Choptank Crossing:*** Marian Huber reviewed the findings and recommendations of the NPS review. With the completion of the Joppa Wharf and visitor center, members agreed the proponents of the nomination had addressed the issues represented in the previous version of the nomination. Members felt inclusion in the Gateways Network will help advance interpretation and marketing of what is now an interesting Bay-related resource. The Wharves at Choptank Crossing (consisting of the Old Harford Town Maritime Center properties and Crouse Park) was approved for designation as a Gateway site.

***USS Constellation and Museum:*** Marian Huber reviewed the findings and recommendations of the NPS review. Bob Carter noted that two of the key issues for sites pertained to whether they are authentic Bay resources and whether they are telling the Bay story. He noted the Constellation, as the largest remaining example of Bay wooden ship-building, seems to be both authentic and have the potential for an interesting story; but, the problem is that that is not really interpreted. Bob Campbell noted that as long as there is a strong Bay connection, a connection beyond the Bay (the ship's role in the Atlantic) is a good thing, showing the broader context and influence of the Bay. Several members noted the potential opportunity for Bay interpretation provided by the ship's high visibility. Bob Carter suggested that keeping the nomination pending while exploring further whether the Constellation is willing to engage in addressing relevant Bay themes could lead to a real opportunity. The ship's upcoming strategic planning process could be an avenue for this. Other members suggested this "contingency" approach could bring the Constellation along. Members suggested meeting with key Constellation staff, including marketing staff, and making a presentation on the Network and relevant interpretive themes and opportunities would make sense. In conclusion, the Working Group agreed to table (keep pending) the nomination, with an affirmative decision on designation contingent upon the Constellation's commitment to expand interpretation of Bay connections.

**Other Nomination Matters:**

The Working Group reviewed a list of other pending or anticipated nominations, with little discussion about specific sites except for some doubts about whether the Shepherdstown Historic District was a potential Gateway. Members asked whether at this point most nominations are solicited or are initiated by the nominee. NPS staff noted that at this point most are nominee-initiated, except where specific recruiting targets are involved. Bob Campbell stated that with the number of currently designated Gateways, most of the clear candidates are already engaged and the decisions on nominations are more difficult. It was also noted that there are still certain strategic gaps, principally on the lower Eastern Shore, Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, some of the upper tributaries and certain specific themes. Working Group members were encouraged to be on the lookout for appropriate candidates, and to also let NPS know about whether they have concerns about any of the anticipated nominations.

Members agreed to continue the advance deadline for nominations at least two months prior to any grant deadline. This would put the nomination deadline at the end of the year or early January; no specific date was set.

**Priorities/Projects Update:**

Skip Meehan reviewed the status of Network-wide projects identified at prior Working Group meetings (see agenda for attached spreadsheet). Marci Ross noted that it may well be time to add in more actions to advance the strategic goal of “broadening recognition of the Gateways Network.” For example, she said that one action could be to set guidelines for the use of the Network logo by CVBs who are engaged in a large amount of the tourism marketing efforts. She noted that the Civil War Trail initiative is addressing this now. Members generally agreed. NPS staff noted that the list pertains to priorities set during fiscal year 2002 and that the Working Group will soon need to look ahead and identify priorities for fiscal year 2003 and beyond in an upcoming meeting.

Several members noted that had not seen Gateways signs up at designated Gateways. Jonathan Doherty said they have all had them since spring and need to be encouraged to make the signs and copies of the Map & Guide visible.

**FY03 Budget Update:**

Jonathan Doherty reported that the overall Federal budget was the subject of a continuing resolution, as none of the individual appropriations bills have yet been passed by Congress. Essentially, this keeps funding at the FY02 level - \$1.2 million for Gateways. It is not clear when the budget will be resolved, but it could be as late as February. Gateways budget planning should continue using the FY02 level even though that could change. The House Interior Department bill has Gateways at \$800,000 and the Senate bill has Gateways at \$3 million. Generally, a final appropriation is somewhere between the two levels. The longer the delay in the budget, the more likely the final bill will be at the FY02 level.

**Grant Guidelines Issues:**

Members reviewed and discussed a range of grant issues (see agenda for attached information). It was noted that decisions on any specific topics would occur at the November meeting. Elizabeth Hughes noted that MHT had reasonable success with asking for the equivalent of a letter of intent in advance of the final application deadline; it has helped to get people focusing on projects a little earlier.

**Tour of Annapolis Maritime Museum:**

Jeff Holland and Peg Wallace introduced the Working Group to the Annapolis Maritime Museum, plans for the future and ongoing projects. Members toured the site and many stayed for lunch at the museum's McNasby's Maritime Café.

**Next Meetings:**

November 13

December 11