Nov. Meeting, Saturday Nov. 15, 2014 Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester MA
Remember to enter the Whitmarsh Street side of the church

AGENDA
7:00: Informal Meeting: Preparation
7:30: Business Meeting: Janet Bessette
7:45: Refreshments: Thirza Joost

8:00: Site Examination at the Middleborough Little League Site
Dr. Curtiss Hoffman, Bridgewater State University

The Middleborough Little League site, located on three terraces above the Nemasket River, has yielded a wealth of information about pre-European lifeways since it was first investigated in 1996. Most of the work done from that time until 2008 was centered on the highest, third terrace, which was threatened with development of ballfields (which have not yet been constructed). In 2009, after securing an agreement with the Middleborough Little League Association to avoid development of the most sensitive parts of the site, attention shifted to the lowest, first terrace. A powerline runs through this area, and it was considered a possibility that the Town at some point might decide to convert the overhead lines to buried fiber-optic cable. That would have a profoundly disturbing effect on any buried archaeological remains. From 2009 to 2011, an intensive survey demonstrated the presence of numerous cultural features and many artifacts. Starting in 2012 and concluding in 2014, a Site Examination in a limited portion of this area explored these features in greater detail. This report will describe the Site Examination operation and discuss its findings, especially in comparison to recoveries from the third terrace. It is concluded that the two terraces were occupied simultaneously for much of the past 6,000 years, and that they served as a repository for sacred items to be redistributed throughout the region for use in ceremonies: red, black, and yellow paintstones, quartz crystals, highly polished pebbles, and other items.
Dr. Curtiss Hoffman is a professor of Anthropology at Bridgewater State University, where he runs annual field schools training students and volunteers in current methods of field and laboratory archaeology. He serves on the MAS Board of Trustees as the editor of the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, and has been a member of the Central Mass. Chapter of MAS since 1978. He is the author of numerous articles and reports on sites throughout eastern Massachusetts. He received his Ph.D. degree from Yale University in 1974.
DIRECTIONS TO MEETING (at Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Ave. Worcester) From I-290, merge onto I-190 North via exit #19 towards Rt.12/Holden/Fitchburg. Take Rt.12/Gold Star Blvd. Exit #1 towards W. Boylston St. and bear right onto Gold Star Blvd. (Rt. 12) Follow Route 12 and travel 0.7 miles up a hill, over a bridge. Follow Route 12 which curves to the left and continue through two stoplights. Take the right onto Whitmarsh Ave., right after Greendale Pizza and go up the hill for 1 block. The Zion Lutheran Church will be on your left at the end of the block. The parking lot is on the right.

Archaeology Exhibits

LOCATION: Robbins Museum, 17 Jackson St. Middleboro, MA 02346
DATE & TIME: Every Wednesday, 9:00am–4:00pm; Saturday, 10:00am–2:00pm; and by contacting, education@massarchaeology.org; our Education Department Staff offers a flexible schedule for tours that meet your organizational and classroom needs!
INFORMATION: Curt Hoffman, 508-947-9005, info@massarchaeology.org
SPONSOR: Massachusetts Archaeological Society
ADMISSION: $2.00 per child and $5.00 per adult

The Robbins Museum is handicapped accessible. Come visit one the oldest archaeological societies in the country. Enjoy our exhibits on the Massachusetts past. Learn about archaeology from our dedicated staff, volunteers, and archaeologists. Fun for the whole family. The Robbins Museum and the Massachusetts Archaeological Society offer education programs for all ages. Lectures for adults and hands-on programs for schools, boy scouts, and libraries. Have a real archaeologist visit your group and teach you about the fascinating history of New England as discovered through the science of archaeology.

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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