



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF BANGOR

TANYA EMERY
DIRECTOR

COMMISSION ON CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT – GOMEZ SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 – 9:00 am

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84050806570>

MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Comment.
 - a. No one from the public presented comments.
 - b. Comments previously received via email were distributed prior to the meeting and are available on the website.
2. Reports back from members/staff about outreach and research:
 - a. Penobscot Nation (Maulian Dana) – unable to join
 - b. New Bedford community – nothing received
 - c. Gomez descendants – nothing received
 - d. Portuguese community – nothing received
 - e. Bangor Historical Society (Matt Bishop) – nothing additional to report, did reach out to Liam Riordan about part of a class research project, waiting to hear about timeline. Liam also sent an email that will be included with public comments received. Matt also noted they would have room to store the upper part of the monument if that was an option they wished to explore.
 - f. Bangor Public Library (Aubrae Filipak) – two books, one that was donated to library at time the monument was put in, and the other a children's book. Aubrae will finish reviewing these and report back. She will also check on other resources online. Amy will email Halifax, as Kevin noted Gomez is alleged to have made it there.
 - g. Bangor Public Schools (
 - h. Liam Riordan/UMaine (Amy Roeder) – email forwarded
 - i. Others (Athens, GA – Amy Roeder) – phone call scheduled for today
3. Discussion on info from public comment/reports from staff.
 - a. Public notices were published in the The Standard-Times (New Bedford, MA) and Bangor Daily News on August 31.
 - b. The options boil down to three choices – leave the monument as is, move/remove it, or leave with modification/interpretation that indicates other information/history.
4. Next agenda: public comment, Ambassador Dana presentation/report, reports back from members/staff about outreach and research, digest new information, start discussing the three options and if adjustment within those may be necessary. Invite Liam to speak. Is it possible for the recommendation not to decide by 9/30 but ask for extension to utilize Liam's class's research? The group could ask for an extension from the Council but would need a compelling reason and to propose a new timeline to see if the Council would agree to that.
5. Amy suggests a temperature check vote at end of meeting – Aubrae leave it and add plaque for context, Kevin same but with storage until it can be reinstalled with context, Jane is for removal and something entirely different should be installed recognizing



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Portuguese exploration but also address Indigenous history at the site, Tristan remove and replace with art from First Nations, Maggie is in the camp of modifying it,

Kevin provided a link from his research as well: <https://www.hiddenhispanicheritage.com/timeline-1524-25---estevan-gomez-explores-the-east-coast.html>

Move to adjourn by Tristan, second by Kevin, roll call: Kevin yes, Tristan yes, Amy yes.

Future meeting dates: September 17, 30 at 9:00 am via zoom

Website for materials and videos: <https://bangormaine.gov/content/1538/1415/1425/25489.aspx>

From: [Lundy, Zeth](#)
To: [Lundy, Betsy](#)
Subject: FW: Gomez Monument should Stand
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:20:10 AM

From: Samantha Foulke
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 7:49 AM
To: Cultural Commission
Subject: Gomez Monument should Stand

I am an accepted student at EMCC, awaiting a second stimulus arrangement for enrollment functionality and am a product of baby boomers I would prefer my comment isn't reiterated throughout digital publication. My viewpoint for Millenials is we need this kind of representation, of unrest existing, as statues are being taken down for similar echoes of reasoning. It isn't true to strip the land of all Explorers that Navigated to the Existing Villages or Whatnot for the sign of the times centuries ago. The riff isn't discussed any longer in an open arena, but there are diverse communities, so this should appease any unsettling karma. Brenda Foulke

From: [Lundy, Zeth](#)
To: [Lundy, Betsy](#)
Subject: FW: Monument removal
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:18:59 AM

From: Sherry Robshaw
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Cultural Commission
Subject: Monument removal

When is this going to stop!? Everyone is on the bandwagon of destroying history. No it might have not been all good but it happened. Why can't people look at it as not "commemorating" something, so much as remembering what happened and strive not to make the same mistakes.

Not every memory in history has a happy connotation but should it be totally wiped out? Where is the forgiveness? Why the need for so much destruction? Why the need to bring more hate in the world? We, as human beings, are all in this together and the more who fight to tear things down, the more devided we all become. This is not the way forward, but the way back to segregation and racial inequality. Stop the nonsense and look forward to what can be done to better the situation not make it worse.

Thank you

Sherry Robshaw

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

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From: [Lundy, Zeth](#)
To: [Lundy, Betsy](#)
Subject: FW: Remove the statue!
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:15:30 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Conlow, Cathy
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:19 PM
To: 'Marion Anderson' <manderson808080@gmail.com>; Councilors <Councilors@bangormaine.gov>
Cc: Emery, Tanya <tanya.emery@bangormaine.gov>; Cultural Commission <culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov>
Subject: RE: Remove the statue!

Marion, thank you for your email. The City policies and ordinances set forth a process for the deaccession of public monuments. It requires that the Cultural Commission for the city of Bangor make a recommendation to the Council. A process has been established by the Cultural Commission to review the facts and make a recommendation to Council. Please feel free to direct any additional comments to culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov. Please include your name and address. Thanks Cathy

August 26, 2020

Contact:Tanya Emery, Director of Community & Economic Development
(207) 992-4280
tanya.emery@bangormaine.gov

Public Meetings to Discuss the Possible Deaccession of the Gomez Monument start Wednesday, September 2

BANGOR, MAINE - The City of Bangor's Commission on Cultural Development will hold public meetings on September 2, 17, and 30, at 9:00 AM to discuss the possible removal of the Gomez Monument. Public participation will be through remote means that include Zoom and the City's live-streaming Facebook page. Anyone who wants to offer public comment must attend the meeting through Zoom or submit the comment at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by emailing it to culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov.

Information on the Zoom meetings, including links, can be found by going to the City's website, www.bangormaine.gov/calendar and by clicking on the meeting. Public comment through Zoom requires a person to state their name and address. Any inappropriate or offensive remarks may be removed or cause removal of the person making them. The public may be recognized to speak by using the hand wave function in Zoom or, on a phone, by pressing *9.

Any questions may be directed to culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov. More information for remote meetings can be found at www.bangormaine.gov/video.

-----Original Message-----

From: Marion Anderson <manderson808080@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Councilors <Councilors@bangormaine.gov>
Subject: Remove the statue!

This is not a person who should be memorialized or celebrated. I call for immediate removal!

From: [Lundy, Zeth](#)
To: [Lundy, Betsy](#)
Subject: FW: support for removing Gomez monument
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:45:41 AM

From: Catherine Schmitt
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Cultural Commission
Subject: support for removing Gomez monument

Hello

I am writing to express support for removing the monument to Estevan Gomez on the banks of Kenduskeag Stream. Gomez was a colonist and enslaver of Native Americans. The monument's location at the site of what was once a Wabanaki village is especially egregious and offensive. I would prefer no monument at all, but if another marker is to be installed it should reference the confluence of Kenduskeag Stream and the Penobscot River as a historic and contemporary homeland of Indigenous peoples.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Catherine Schmitt

Bangor resident

From: [Lundy, Zeth](#)
To: [Lundy, Betsy](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Statue's Removal
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:20:46 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Oltarzewski <dianeolta@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Cultural Commission <culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov>
Subject: Support for Statue's Removal

I am completely in accord with the removal of the statue commemorating Estevan Gomez from the Bangor waterfront. Ambassador Dana's clarification that we should not be elevating a historical figure who was complicit in kidnapping and enslaving Indigenous people is a welcome injection of truth into our mainstream consciousness. Please honor her testimony and courage and take this away so it will not impose historical distortions on the minds of new generations.

We must be pro-active in the pursuit of truth and justice, and this is one way Bangor can participate directly.

Best regards,
Diane Oltarzewski
Belfast

From: [Deanna Wilbur](#)
To: [Cultural Commission](#)
Subject: Gomez monument removal
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:29:56 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am a Bangor native and purchased a property in Bangor in January. I fully support the removal of the Estevan Gomez statue on Broad St. There are plenty of incredible Bangorians we could honor with monuments. We don't need an ugly monument about a guy (who may or may not have even stepped foot in Bangor) who kidnapped human beings to be sold into slavery. Get that shit OUTTA HERE.

Thank you for your time,
Dee Wilbur

From: [Davitt, Clare](#)
To: [Emery, Tanya](#); [Lundy, Betsy](#); [Cultural Commission](#)
Cc: [Conlow, Cathy](#)
Subject: Re: Gomez monument
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:57:15 PM

Sorry, I guess original email didn't come through. I've copied and pasted it below:

Hi Clare,

I'm sending this to you asking your assistance to get it to whomever will be taking up public comment on the removal of the Gomez monument. The contact email address in the BDN article, <culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov>, turns out to be invalid. Perhaps you can alert the cultural commission to that fact. Thanks for your assistance. Diane

I'd like to offer this comment:

Removing the monument on the banks of the Penobscot commemorating Estevan Gomez sailing up the river 500 years ago, will not change the fact that Gomez sailed up the river 500 years ago. May I suggest replacing it with a plaque that not only states the event of his coming, but utilizes it as a teaching tool, one that tells how he went on to kidnap and attempt to enslave Native peoples. The cross motif that was chosen for the monument was unfortunate. It could be said to perpetuate the fallacy that Christianity brought civilization to the many people subjugated by its practitioners and missionaries. Diane Monroe Smith, Holden, Maine <dianemonroesmith.com>

Clare Davitt
Bangor City Council Chair
clare.davitt@bangormaine.gov

Pronouns: she/her

On Aug 27, 2020, at 4:54 PM, Davitt, Clare wrote:

Clare Davitt
Bangor City Council Chair
clare.davitt@bangormaine.gov

Pronouns: she/her

Begin forwarded message:

From: Clare Davitt
Date: August 27, 2020 at 4:50:25 PM EDT
To: "Davitt, Clare"
Subject: Fwd: Gomez monument

Emery, Tanya

From: Amy Roeder <amyjroeder@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Emery, Tanya
Subject: Fwd: Gomez Monument

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Bragg <janebragg@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Gomez Monument
Date: September 1, 2020 at 4:42:56 PM EDT
To: Amy Roeder <amyjroeder@gmail.com>, Angela Okafor <angela.okafor@bangormaine.gov>, Aubrae Filipiak <aubrae.filipiak@gmail.com>, Barbara McDade <bamcdade@roadrunner.com>, Christina Berube <christina.berube7@gmail.com>, Kevin Smith <kevinhelosmith@gmail.com>, "Lundy, Betsy" <betsy.lundy@bangormaine.gov>, Marge McGill <mcm436@gmail.com>, Mary Donovan <m.k.donovan1@gmail.com>, Tristan Greenlaw <tristangreenlaw@gmail.com>

The email below was sent to me as chair and to culturalcommission.me which my guess is went to Betsy. I thought it should be shared with the full commission and especially the two committees impacted, ie cultural asset and Gomez monument.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Liam Riordan <riordan@maine.edu>
Date: Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 7:20 AM
Subject: Gomez Monument
To: <culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov>
Cc: Jane Bragg <janebragg@gmail.com>

Dear Chairperson Bragg and Bangor CCD,

I am teaching an undergraduate research seminar at UMaine this fall, and the class has partnered with Matt Bishop (curator, Bangor Historical Society) and Anne Krieg (Bangor City Planner). We plan to research and develop new interpretive signage for the existing Kenduskeag Stream Heritage Trail, which we hope can contribute to your plans for this important cultural corridor in Bangor.

Perhaps the most elaborate site along the two-mile Heritage Trail is the Gomez Monument that quite rightly is now the subject of close public scrutiny. I urge the CCD to consider that we need a closer and more meaningful public engagement with the history of Bangor and its region. In this regard, I think that modifications to the existing Gomez Monument (and the Heritage Trail, more generally) to more accurately present Indigenous history and tribal persistence up to the present should be a top priority. To do so effectively, new City funds should be earmarked for this important work.

There is a large scholarly literature about the changing place of historical monuments in US society. One leading assessment has been recently updated in an expanded 2018 edition. I encourage CCD members to read Sanford Levinson's Written in Stone (Duke UP, new afterword 2018).

Regards,
Liam
former CCD member
now on Bangor's Historic Preservation Commission

--

Liam Riordan
Professor of History, Univ. of Maine
Maine Bicentennial Conference resources are
online: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/me200/>

The University of Maine recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, where issues of water and territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.

Emery, Tanya

From: Emily Burnham <eburnham@bangordailynews.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Emery, Tanya
Subject: Re: archive material re: Gomez monument

Hey Tanya,

Here's everything I've found, from start to finish! These are just our old archive links -- but since you have the specific dates for the stories, you could probably just ask Betsy over at the BPL to look them all up in the microfilm archive and send you screengrabs. Though I'm pretty sure these will be slightly more legible. Hope that helps! They might not tell you anything more than what you already know, but good to have anyway I suppose.

<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1998/06/03/no-mtbe-in-bangor-water-supply/>
<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/05/28/bangor-to-get-explorers-memorial-new-bedford-artisan-commemorating-portuguese-who-sailed-up-penobscot/>
<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/10/08/bangor-to-dedicate-monument-to-early-river-explorer/>
<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/10/12/portuguese-explorer-honored-massachusetts-town-gives-monument-to-bangor/>

And here's the full text of one that I can't find an archive link for, about the one-year anniversary of its installation:

Contributions of Portuguese celebrated

Publication date: 10/10/2000

Photographer (Byline): Dawn Gagnon Of the NEWS Staff

BANGOR - Though he last visited the area almost 500 years ago, a little-known Portuguese explorer is finally getting his due.

Estevan Gomez in 1525 became the first European to set foot on land that would one day be part of the city of Bangor when he sailed up the Penobscot River in search of a route to the Far East. He's believed to be the first European to help map the coastal area from Newport to Nova Scotia.

During a ceremony in Explorer Park - a neatly manicured plot of land at the confluence of the Kenduskeag Stream and Penobscot River - about 150 members of New England's Portuguese-American community and dozens of Mainers gathered to celebrate the contributions of Gomez to Bangor and the rest of the world.

Their meeting place was Bangor's year-old stone and concrete monument to Gomez. A gift to Bangor from the community of New Bedford, the monument which was dedicated a year ago, was handcrafted by Julio Vasconcellos, an employee of the Massachusetts city. It features a mosaic of a large compass, a basic tool of navigators.

The ceremony was one highlight of the second annual visit to Bangor by Americans of Portuguese descent, mostly from New Bedford and its neighboring communities.

Participants took a few moments out of the annual Columbus Day observance to contemplate an aspect of early Bangor history that was known until recently by few here.

As Bangor City Councilor Jerry Palmer observed during his welcoming remarks, the 1525 visit from Gomez was not part of the history curriculum during his school days.

Some of the lessons he recalled were about the Pilgrims and French explorer Samuel de Champlain, who did not get to the New World until almost 100 years after Gomez. He also remembered lessons about Jacob Buswell and his family, the first white settlers in Bangor, relative late comers who didn't arrive until 1769.

"This puts our history so much farther back," Palmer said.

Councilor Joseph Baldacci, former mayor, and council colleagues Dan Tremble and Judy Vardamis joined Palmer in expressing Bangor's hope the relationship with New Bedford would be a long-lasting one.

Baldacci presented the group a key to the city, telling the visitors, "The door's always open."

The blossoming relationship between the two cities was instigated by Edmund Dinis, a former district attorney, state representative and state senator from New Bedford, who worked with staff from the two communities for more than a year before the Bangor monument was unveiled last October.

During his remarks, Dinis spoke of the warm reception he and other members of the Portuguese-American community received from city staff and city officials, as well as from Aquelidio "Rod" Rodrigues, a Bangor photographer of Portuguese descent who provided cards featuring scenes of Bangor's Gomez monument.

Dinis noted that Rodrigues had a relatively rare pedigree for this part of Maine, which has only a small Portuguese population.

Dinis also observed that the pilgrimage was important to those he led north.

"You can see for yourselves our status in Maine and Nova Scotia," he said, later adding, "After 500 years, all we want is a little recognition."

The New Bedford delegation visited Bangor as part of their pilgrimage to historic sites first visited by Portuguese explorers.

Before their stop in Bangor, the travelers went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where they visited New Bedford's monument to Joao Alvares Facundes, a Portuguese explorer who established a community in Nova Scotia in 1520.

Another of the group's aims was to share some of their rich history and culture with others.

"We have almost 1,000 years of culture," said Eduardo Rodrigues, news director for WJFD, a Portuguese-language radio station broadcast out of New Bedford on FM radio and over the Internet.

Portugal, he said, gave the world some of its greatest navigators and cartographers, men who bravely embarked on their exploratory journeys with no knowledge of what their destinies might be. Portuguese also happens to be the sixth most spoken language in the world.

During Monday's celebration, the Portuguese-American delegation also was presented a proclamation from the City and taken on the Bangor Historical Society's "Best of Bangor" tour.

After the tour, the visitors were the guests of honor at a luncheon at the Elks Club.

Emily

On Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 11:29 AM Emery, Tanya <tanya.emery@bangormaine.gov> wrote:

Hi Emily,

For part of the Commission on Cultural Development review of the Gomez Monument for possible deaccessioning, we need to gather information from a variety of different sources. CCD members are working with UMaine, the Bangor Historical Society, etc. I wonder if the BDN archives might have any articles from the time when the monument was proposed and installed that could be helpful to them? How do I go about getting a copy of any relevant materials?

And let me know if this request should go somewhere else – I just figured I'd start with you!

Thanks,

Tanya

BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE)

No MTBE in Bangor water supply

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff
June 3, 1998 12:00 am

BANGOR — A gasoline additive, a 16th century explorer, a hot dog stand and a Web site composed an eclectic agenda Tuesday for the municipal operations committee.

Around the state, reports of contamination from MTBE — methyl tertiary butyl ether — in water supplies are cropping up, but not in Bangor's water, explained Wayne Rogalski, superintendent of the Bangor Water District.

The district, which draws water from Floods Pond in Otis, has been tested twice for the contaminant, first in March 1997 and again in May 1998. Nothing showed



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That good report was not unexpected. The district owns the pristine Floods Pond and much of the watershed around it.

In fact, said Vaughn Smith, district trustee, the water source “is one of the few places in the country that is so well-protected.”

The committee also was told that the new water main for district customers in Hermon will run along Odlin Road.

In other business, the panel gave tentative approval to Edmund Dinis’ request that he be allowed to place a memorial to Portuguese explorer, Estevan Gomez, also known as Estavao Gomes, in a location to be determined.

Dinis, an attorney from New Bedford, Mass., had supplied the city with information from a book by renowned historian Samuel Eliot Morison.

John Frawley, former city engineer, has been researching the issue, and has come up with a variety of possible explorers to the region — Irish, Icelandic, Viking and others — including Gomez.

The committee on Tuesday approved allowing city staff to work with Dinis on a possible memorial, providing the city has approval on the memorial and its wording. Dinis has spoken to the secretary of state in Portugal about that country possibly donating the memorial, and has further offered to pay for it himself if Portugal doesn’t.

Councilor Gerry Palmer suggested that Dinis' concept of a boulder with a plaque on it might incorporate a rock from Portugal.

Also on Tuesday, Purchasing Director David Pellegrino told the committee that the concessionaire for the Union Street Softball Field was transferred with little notice, and that the field is without a refreshment stand.

One affiliated with another city facility had been lined up, but his plans didn't work out.

Pellegrino said that a couple of days later he received a request from Marshall Frankel, asking that L.A.M.M. Inc. be allowed to run the concession this year with a \$100 rental. Frankel said that he would serve Coca-Cola products because that company helps the field through the city's adopt-a-park program.

Councilors decided there wasn't time to issue formal requests for proposals, but wanted to be fair to all who might want to apply. They asked Pellegrino to contact possible vendors and to spread the word that the city would like to hear from those interested. Next year, the city will go through the regular proposal process.

Also on Tuesday, Brian Ross of Virtually Bangor gave a brief presentation on the city information he hopes to put on a Web site. This would include council agendas and various municipal information.

City Solicitor Erik Stumpfel explained that the information is all on public record, and site developers may put the data on their sites as long as they don't purport to be the official city Web site. That has not been developed yet, although the airport has its own site and some information is on BAIRnet.

Have feedback? Want to know more? Send us ideas for follow-up stories.

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BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE)

Bangor to get explorer's memorial> New Bedford artisan commemorating Portuguese who sailed up Penobscot

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff

May 28, 1999 12:00 am

BANGOR — Come fall, Kenduskeag Stream Park may be the site of a memorial to a 16th century Portuguese explorer believed to have set foot in Bangor more than 450 years ago.

The project has been in the planning stages for nearly two years, organized by attorney Edmund Dinis of New Bedford, Mass.



City councilors on the municipal operations committee heard the latest report on the project recently from Stan Moses, assistant director of community and economic development.

The artisan for the monument would be Julio Vascaueelos, a third-generation concrete artisan from Portugal who is construction supervisor for the New Bedford Public Works Department.

On a recent trip to Massachusetts, Moses stopped in New Bedford to see a dozen monuments designed and built by Vascaueelos.

Moses told the committee that the monuments, which include a Holocaust memorial, were “wonderful works of art. I was absolutely amazed. I’d never seen anything like that in concrete before.”

Like many of those in New Bedford, Bangor's monument — a gift from the city — would be "a monument similar to a moderate-size headstone, cast in concrete and polished," Moses said.

Many of the markers he saw showed "colored fibers mixed in, looking like grains of natural stone," he said. "Some of them were really quite breathtaking."

Vascaueelos would cast the base in four square sections for shipping to Bangor, Moses said. The base would then be mounted on crushed rock by the Kenduskeag, on a grassy area near the intersection of Broad and Exchange streets.

A bronze plaque on the monument would read: "Estevan Gomez, a Portuguese navigator sailing for Spain in search of the Northwest Passage, landed on these shores in 1525."

Bangor's role would be to excavate and prepare the site, and to help bring the marker and its base from New Bedford.

In proposing that Bangor accept the monument to Gomez — also known as Estavao Gomes and Don Esteban Gomez — Edmund Dinis provided the city with information from Samuel Eliot Morison's "The European Discovery of America" and from "Woodsmen and Whigs" by Abigail Zelz and Marilyn Zoidis.

Gomez also was discussed in "Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present," edited by Richard W. Judd, Edwin A. Churchill and Joel W. Eastman and published in 1995 by the University of Maine Press.

Gomez was looking for "el Cathayo oryental," and sailed up the Penobscot River in hopes that it might be the Northern Strait.

His vessel was a 50-ton caravel, authorized by King Charles V for outfitting and supplies costing about \$5,800 in gold.

Reaching the "head of navigation" at Bangor, Morrison said, Gomez decided the waterway was only a "famous river with a great flow of water." And although there was iron pyrite — fool's gold — there was no real gold. "No hay alla de oro," Gomez wrote.

Mayor Joseph Baldacci has spoken with the New Bedford mayor about the project, which may be completed and dedicated this fall.

"We do have people of Portuguese descent living in Bangor," pointed out Councilor Patricia Blanchette.

Dinis has served in several capacities in state and county government, Moses said, and is the owner of Spanish-language and Portuguese-language radio stations.

"He is a person who is trying to preserve the Portuguese culture in this country," he added.

Have feedback? Want to know more? Send us ideas for follow-up stories.

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BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE

Bangor to dedicate monument to early river explorer

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff
October 8, 1999 12:00 am

BANGOR — Probably the largest compass in Bangor will mark the spot where a Portuguese explorer may have set foot in 1525 near the confluence of the Kenduskeag Stream and the Penobscot River.

The dedication of the monument to Estevan Gomez, one of the first Europeans to explore the river, will bring together officials and others from Bangor and New Bedford, Mass., where the 14-foot-by-14-foot marker was made.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. Monday in the Kenduskeag Stream Park near the intersection of Washington and Broad streets.

Designed and created by mason Julio Vasconcellos, a Portuguese native who works for the city of New Bedford, the monument will feature a concrete and granite slab displaying a compass face of cobblestones — gray, white and off-white.

Gomez's name will be on the monument and on a small concrete cross and shield. Two concrete benches will allow visitors to rest near the banks of the Kenduskeag.

Vasconcellos has created many monuments, both in New Bedford and in surrounding communities. Bangor city councilors viewed pictures of the artisan's

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work during discussions of the project.

Stan Moses, Bangor assistant director of community and economic development, visited many of the monuments — including a Holocaust memorial — during a visit to Massachusetts.

Moses told councilors later that Vasconcellos created “wonderful works of art. I was absolutely amazed. I’d never seen anything like that in concrete before.”

Two years in the making, the tribute was the idea of Edmund Dinis, a former district attorney, state senator and state representative from New Bedford.

He approached the two cities with the idea, with New Bedford providing labor and materials. The city of Bangor took on the transportation and installation of the marker.

The owner of Spanish- and Portuguese-language radio stations, Dinis is active in the preservation of the Portuguese culture in this country and will attend the ceremony.

Spain had sent Gomez on the journey in hopes that he would find the Northern Strait, a short route to the East. He also was looking for gold, but found none.



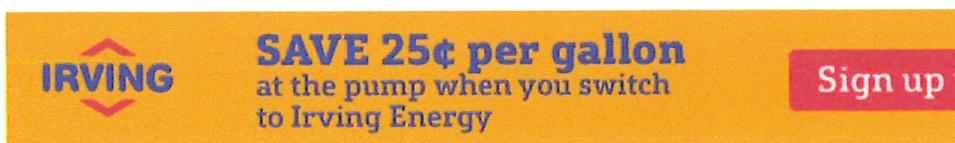
BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE)

Portuguese explorer honored > Massachusetts town gives monument to Bangor

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff
October 12, 1999 12:00 am

BANGOR — Portuguese explorer Estevan Gomez found neither gold nor the mythical route to the Far East on his journey up the Penobscot River, but his 16th century visit has spawned a special friendship between the cities of Bangor and New Bedford, Mass.

Dozens of New Bedfordites — many of them fluent in Portuguese — traveled by bus to join in Monday's dedication of a monument their city donated to Bangor, where Gomez set foot in 1525 while sailing for Spain.



Handcrafted by New Bedford city employee Julio Vasconcellos, the concrete monument, with its mosaic of gray and cream-colored rocks, features a large compass, “the basic tool of all navigators,” explained New Bedford Mayor Frederick Kalisz.

The mayor, addressing about 100 spectators, said it was good to see “two cities work together to foster a love of history,” a rich history that Americans too often take for granted. He added that after discussions with Bangor Mayor Joseph Baldacci, he was hopeful that Bangor and New Bedford would work on a kind of “sister city” relationship for the future.

The mayors agreed that credit for Monday’s event went largely to Edmund Dinis, a former district attorney, state representative and state senator from New Bedford. For more than a year, the philanthropist worked on the project with both New Bedford and Bangor officials such as Stan Moses, assistant director of community and economic development.

Dinis visited the Queen City in 1998, and said Monday he had been “impressed by this particular site” in a corner of Kenduskeag Stream Park, not far from the stream’s confluence with the Penobscot.

The Gomez who sailed for Spain, explained Sandra Patrick, president of the Bangor Historical Society, was born Estavao Gomes in Portugal. He was quite the character, getting himself jailed in Spain after he mutinied from his travels with explorer Ferdinand Magellan.

But Gomez talked his way out of jail and convinced King Charles V that he could find a better route to the East and its riches, Patrick said. Soon he was on his way to the New World, landing at Cape Breton before making his way down the Maine coast — past Mount Desert Island, through Eggemoggin Reach and finally up the Penobscot.

The navigator found the country “temperate and well-forested,” Patrick said, and called the river “Rio de las Gamas,” because of its abundance of deer.

Gifts were exchanged between city officials Monday, and it turned out that Dinis had more gifts for Bangor, as well. He presented Bangor Librarian Barbara McDade with copies of historian Samuel Eliot Morison’s “The European Discovery of America,” as well as a large painting of Gomez’ ship, La Anunciada, done by New Bedford employee Victor Augusto.

Toward the end of the ceremony, a cross-shaped marker on the monument was unveiled by Moses, Kalisz, Baldacci and Dinis. The marker bore a plaque: “Estevan Gomez. A Portuguese navigator and explorer in the service of Spain landed in this area in 1525.”

Portuguese heritage was the order of the day. Catarina Avelar of New Bedford sang the national anthem Monday, while Portuguese Vice Consul General Joseph Canha commended Dinis for his work on the project, and Bangor for accepting the gift and its history. Canha presented his remarks in both English and Portuguese.

After the ceremony, officials invited the New Bedford delegation to board the city-run River Dog cruise boat for a sightseeing trip of the Penobscot where Gomez had sailed his ship.

As for Dinis, he isn’t resting on his laurels now that the Gomez memorial is in place. He told the New Bedford Standard-Times recently that he is working with the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on a monument for Joao Alvares Fagundes, who started a Portuguese community there in 1520.

Legal Notices

CITY OF BANGOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

NOTICE: Public Meetings to Discuss the Possible Deaccession of the Gomez Monument start Wednesday, September 2

BANGOR, MAINE - The City of Bangor's Commission on Cultural Development will hold public meetings on **September 2, 17, and 30, at 9:00 AM** to discuss the possible removal of the Gomez Monument. Public participation will be through remote means that include Zoom and the City's live-streaming Facebook page. Anyone who wants to offer public comment must attend the meeting through Zoom or submit the comment at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by emailing it to culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov.

Information on the Zoom meetings, including links, can be found by going to the City's website, www.bangormaine.gov/calendar and by clicking on the meeting. Public comment through Zoom requires a person to state their name and address. Any inappropriate or offensive remarks may be removed or cause removal of the person making them. The public may be recognized to speak by using the hand wave function in Zoom or, on a phone, by pressing *9.

Any questions may be directed to culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov. More information for remote meetings can be found at www.bangormaine.gov/video.

SouthCoast Media Group

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Following is the proof for the legal notice regarding: **Possible Deaccession of the Gomez Monument meetings**

Scheduled for publication in **The Standard-Times** on: **August 31, 2020**

Please proofread the following copy for accuracy. Give me a call back at the above number or email by **12:00 p.m. Friday, August 28th** to let me know whether any changes/corrections will be needed prior to publication of the ad.

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Thank you, Luiza

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Emery, Tanya

From: KevinKJ Smith <kevinhelosmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:30 AM
To: amyjroeder@gmail.com; Emery, Tanya; aubrae.filipiak@gmail.com
Subject: the site I mentioned

<https://www.hiddenhispanicheritage.com/timeline-1524-25---estevan-gomez-explores-the-east-coast.html>

Kevin Smith
and there is a contact section as well.