

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Harborside Learning Lab, Boston, MA  
Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 6:00 PM – 7:45 PM**

Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair, opened the meeting, announced a quorum, and welcomed all. The minutes from the December 1, 2010 meeting was approved.

**Boston Harbor Islands During the Civil War**

On March 2, 2011, at the annual Advisory Council Meeting Park Ranger Phillip Marsh gave a presentation called, "The Trent Affair and John Brown's Body: Boston Harbor Islands During the Civil War." This presentation provided the audience with an introduction to the Civil War and its legacy. Highlights of the presentation included details of two major events related to the Civil War connected to the harbor islands during 1861, the "Trent Affair" and the origins of the song, "John Brown's Body." The presentation also provided an introduction to planned Civil War Sesquicentennial programming for 2011-2015.

**Elections**

Pat Morss announced Nominating Committee recommendations for officers and Partnership representatives: Rob Moir for Chair; Maureen Cavanaugh as Vice-Chair; Charlie Norris and Maureen Cavanaugh as Voting Partners; and, Chris Montgomery and Rob Moir as Voting Alternate Partners. Pat asked if there were any nominations from the floor; there were none. A motion was made to accept the slate as proposed. **The motion was unanimously accepted.**

Maureen recognized Greg Ketchen for his years of service as an inaugural member of the council and former chair and thanked him for service and his commitment to the islands. Maureen turned the meeting over to the newly elected Chair, Rob Moir. Rob thanked Maureen for her contributions as Chair, and for continuing to serve as Vice-Chair. Rob said he was thrilled to be back and involved in the islands and the Council. He passed out a survey for members to express their interests and ideas to increase the effectiveness of the council.

**Ask the Superintendent**

Bruce Jacobson announced that Kelly Fellner accepted a new position with NPS in the regional office. He thanked her for her extraordinary accomplishments during her time at Boston Harbor Islands, particularly in her teambuilding efforts that helped get multiple agencies streamlined to deliver services more effectively. Bruce said NPS is actively working to fill the job, but it is expected to take several months. In this interim period, he said several people are helping to fill gaps: Marc Albert and Sarah Waterworth are helping with seasonal hiring duties; Eva VanAken is developing plans for seasonal staff training and for visitor services procedures at the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion; Dawn Tesorero is the lead for curriculum-based programming; and he is the contact for operations, interpretation, and programming. Bruce mentioned that those additional duties would prevent him from spending as much time with the Council as he usually does.

Bruce responded to a question about the dog policy for the islands. He said a policy is not yet finalized, but it looks like dogs will be allowed in some areas of the park on-leash, and that it will be difficult to access any of the islands where dogs are allowed from Boston.

Bruce was asked about a recent policy banning smoking in City of Boston Parks and what this might mean for the islands. Bruce said there is no change to the policy for the islands. Smoking is not permitted on the islands.

A question was asked about what role the Council might play in a 2016 celebration of the anniversary of the National Park Service, Boston Harbor Islands, and Boston Light. Bruce said no formal planning is yet underway, but that he welcomes any input Council members may have.

A suggestion was made to use the Civil War Sesquicentennial as leverage to re-open Gallops Island. Bruce said Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has issued an order to clean it up. Studies are underway.

Bruce said there was not a robust response to the Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA) RFP that was sent out on behalf of DCR and the City of Boston for a marina operator on Spectacle Island. He said many of the moorings the park owned have been vandalized, lost, or stolen. Park managers are in the process of obtaining permits and acquiring new moorings. Bruce said Jane Ellis, BHIA, is the main contact for marina and moorings operations.

Bruce said Thompson Island public access will continue on Sundays, but at this point, ferry service will just be from EDIC Pier. Managers continue to explore possibilities of continuing the connection between Spectacle Island and Thompson.

In response to questions, Bruce gave an update on the Peddocks Island improvements project. He said contractors are mobilized on-island and preparing for demolition of unsafe buildings. The demolition and stabilization is expected to be complete by June, in time to open Peddocks for camping and day visitation. He said that Tom Powers, BHIA, is the main contact for the project.

Bruce reported that construction of Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion is on target for an early June opening. Structures are up, and graphics for exhibit panels are being finalized.

### **Mass Memories**

Suzanne Gall Marsh invited all to bring their stories and photographs to a Mass. Memories Road Show on September 17 dedicated to Boston Harbor Islands. She said the event is part of a state-wide public history project to document and archive photos, stories, and for future generations. She said the event is sponsored by Mass Humanities, University of Massachusetts-Boston, and Volunteers and Friends of Boston Harbor Islands. She encouraged all to participate by bringing their pictures or by getting their organization to sponsor. Suzanne mentioned that there is no financial commitment to becoming a sponsor, only to help spread the word about the event. Volunteers to staff the event are also needed.

### **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
3-2-11 Meeting Attendance

**MEMBERS PRESENT (X)**

1. John Anderson	<b>X</b>
2. Jennifer Bender	
3. Victor Brogna	<b>X</b>
4. Nancy Callanan*	
5. Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair	<b>X</b>
6. Teresa Czerepica	
7. Bill Hale	
8. Mel Harris	
9. Mary Anne Hendricks	<b>X</b>
10. Rick Kasseli	
11. Greg Ketchen	<b>X</b>
12. Steve Kirk	
13. Dale Linder	<b>X</b>
14. Rob Moir	<b>X</b>
15. Chris Montgomery	<b>X</b>
16. Pat Morss	<b>X</b>
17. Charlie Norris	<b>X</b>
18. Jim Peters	<b>X</b>
19. Bill Reardon	<b>X</b>
20. Peter Rosen	<b>X</b>
21. Elizabeth Solomon*	
22. Lauri Webster	<b>X</b>
23. Matt Wolfe	<b>X</b>
24. Vacant Seat	
25. Vacant Seat	
26. Vacant Seat	
27. Vacant Seat	
28. Vacant Seat	

\*pending member

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Marc Albert, NPS	<b>X</b>
Richard Armenia, NPS	<b>X</b>
Teresa Czeripica	
Kelly Fellner, NPS	<b>X</b>
Wallter Hope, FBHI	<b>X</b>
Bruce Jacobson, NPS	<b>X</b>
Carl Johnson	<b>X</b>
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	
Suzanne Gall Marsh, FBHI	<b>X</b>
Karen O'Donnell	
Phillip Marsh, NPS	<b>X</b>
Louise Millet	
Karen O'Donnell, FBHI	<b>X</b>
Tom Powers, BHIA	
Joel Reck, BHIA	
Mary Raczko, NPS	<b>X</b>
Connie Saienga	<b>X</b>
Chuck Smythe, NPS	
Dawn Tesorero, NPS	
David Weinstein, TIOBEC	

BHIA – Boston Harbor Island Alliance  
 DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 FBHI – Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands  
 NPS – National Park Service  
 TIOBEC-Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center