

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all. The minutes of the June 6, 2012, meeting were approved with corrections to the attendee list, Victor Brogna, Peter Rosen, and Jay Schmidt were in attendance.

Call to Action

Bruce Jacobson reminded all of the significance of the year 2016. In 2016, Boston Light will turn 300 years old on September 14, Boston Harbor Islands national park area will turn 20 on November 12 and the National Park Service (NPS) will turn 100 on August 25.

Bruce said he and Tom Powers, President, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, recently attended “America’s Summit on National Parks: Taking Action for a New Century”. Tom Powers said the summit brought together leaders from conservation, philanthropy, recreation, tourism, education, health, and economic development to discuss the future of our national parks. He said that Jon Jarvis, Director of NPS, issued “A Call to Action” which outlines a path for NPS to take on the challenges of the 21st Century. Each partner, program, and park plays a dynamic role in this vision. Tom said that at the summit, there was discussion of the economic value of parks to the local communities, looming federal budget cuts, and the need for parks to find innovative ways to support programs and projects. He mentioned “A Call to Action” has also been a topic at Friends Alliance meetings. Friends Alliance is a gathering of executives of Friends Groups and park officials; Tom is the current President.

Bruce gave a presentation on what is being done on the park level in response to the call (presentation attached). Bruce invited the council to review the action items and comment, or hopefully identify a role for the council to play in helping to achieve them. The council discussed and asked questions. Suggestions were made to put more focused outreach toward Boston communities, and to look into hosting farmers markets.

Membership Update

Mary Raczko, NPS, gave a membership update. There are now 7 vacancies on the council as follows: 3 in the Community interest group, 2 in the Native American interest group, and 2 in Municipalities, as well as a partnership position to be filled. Mary responded to a question about municipalities that could be represented. She said that the city or town just needs to have an interest in the harbor islands; there is no requirement that they be coastal communities. The council asked for clarification of the nominating process, and for a contact list. Elizabeth Solomon put her name forth for consideration for the Partnership seat.

Solid Waste Initiative

Lauri Webster, Solid Waste Planning Consultant, gave a progress report. She is researching solid waste and recycling efforts on the hub islands. She has reviewed countless reports, contracts and regulations, has begun analyzing data about types and quantities of trash and recyclables, and has talked to park staff of all levels, vendors and visitors. She engaged the Council in a lively conversation about their experiences with trash on the islands. She got members' input on the current carry on/carry off policy and how they thought a "pay as you throw" program might work or be received by the public. Lauri said she is working on developing recommendations for short-term improvements that could be implemented as well as alternatives for medium- and long-term recommendations for a park-wide solid waste and recycling system.

Ask the Superintendent

Bruce Jacobson responded to several questions.

- Ferry ridership numbers are reported to be up about 25% from last year. The numbers are not yet finalized, as the season does not end until Columbus Day. The weather this season has been favorable.
- There is touch-and-go availability for private boaters at Georges, Peddocks, Grape, Lovells, and Bumpkin Islands. Spectacle Island is the only island with docking facilities. All the islands have a dinghy available for use of private boaters.
- Boston Harbor Island Alliance hopes to get the outside of the chapel on Peddocks Island painted. The chapel has lead paint, so it requires a specialized contractor to do the work.
- A suggestion was made to have private boaters register for an "island pass" program for a voluntary fee. The fees collected could be used for facilities or amenities that benefit boaters.

Public Comment

Mary Raczko invited all to the volunteer appreciation event on Peddocks Island October 13. She said it was a great opportunity for Council members to see the progress of the East Head Improvements Project that Jane Ellis, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, talked about at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
9/12/12 Meeting Attendees

MEMBERS PRESENT (X)

1. John Anderson	
2. Jennifer Bender	
3. Nancy Callanan	
4. Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-Chair	X
5. Lou Gainor	X
6. Megan Glenn	
7. Walter Hope	X
8. Mel Harris	
9. Carl Johnson	X
10. Rick Kasseli	
11. Dale Linder	X
12. Jim Martel	X
13. Rob Moir, Chair	
14. Charlie Norris	
15. Jim Peters	
16. Bill Reardon	
17. Peter Rosen	
18. Jay Schmidt	X
19. Elizabeth Solomon	X
20. Lauri Webster	X
21. Matt Wolfe	
22. Vacant Seat, Community	
23. Vacant Seat, Community	
24. Vacant Seat, Community	
25. Vacant Seat, Municipalities	
26. Vacant Seat, Municipalities	
27. Vacant Seat, Native American	
28. Vacant Seat, Native American	

OTHERS PRESENT

Marc Albert, NPS	
Susannah Corona	
Jane Ellis, BHIA	
Bill Hale**	X
Hugh Hawthorne, NPS	
Bruce Jacobson, NPS	X
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	
Suzanne Gall Marsh**	
Pat Morss**	X
Karen O'Donnell**	
Tom Powers, BHIA	X
Mary Raczko	X

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

*pending member

**Emeritus Council Member