

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Mariner's House, 11 North Square, Boston, MA
Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Rob Moir, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all. The minutes of the June 6, 2012, meeting were approved. Council members and audience members introduced themselves.

Report from the Environmental Interest Group

Rob Moir gave an update on five Massachusetts bills: new Massachusetts Endangered Species Act; Expanded Bottle; Old Growth Forest Permanent Protection; Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals; and, Water Resources.

Membership Update

Mary Raczko, NPS, gave a membership update. There are now 6 vacancies on the council as follows: 3 in the Community interest group, 1 in the Native American interest group, and 2 in Municipalities, as well as a Partnership position to be filled. A Nominating Committee was formed (Maureen Cavanaugh, Bill Reardon, Pat Morss, and Elizabeth Solomon) to identify candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair and Partnership Alternate Partner positions.

Membership/Council Function

Council members engaged in a lively discussion about Council membership, function, and role. Frustration was expressed about the level of recent accomplishments.

Council members expressed a desire to get new energy into the Council and discussed how to get youth involved. It was recognized that the council could not run a youth program and that attracting youth to meetings would be challenging. Council members felt the youth voice was very important and tried to think of ways that youth could be heard. How could the Council meet them where they are? How could the Council best listen? Youth that participate in park programs, like Green Ambassadors and student interns can be invited to give a presentation. There was a suggestion for the Council to create a Youth Committee. Council members were encouraged to attend the Partnership's "Getting Youth to the Islands" committee meetings.

Council members discussed the purpose of the council, which is to advise the Partnership. How can this be done more effectively? How can the Council voice hold more weight in Partnership matters? How to become more focused as a group? There was a suggestion to revitalize the "scorecard" that was developed a few years ago or "report card" issued in the early years of the Council, as the input seemed to be valued by the Partnership. Past community outreach efforts were also mentioned as worthwhile revisiting. The discussion will continue.

Public Comment

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands are hosting their annual New Year's trip to the islands.

New England Native American Art Show will be held on Saturday at the Sheraton in Cambridge.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

