

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
New England Aquarium, Harborside Learning Lab, Boston, MA  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Rob Moir, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all. The minutes of the September 11, 2013, meeting were approved. Council members and audience members introduced themselves.

**Boston Harbor: Where We Have Come From, Where We Are Now**

Phil Collorusso, Environmental Protection Agency Marine Biologist and avid diver, gave an overview on the health of Boston Harbor from the 1980's to the present. The water treatment plant on Deer Island transformed one of the dirtiest harbors in the nation to one of the cleanest. Advisory Council members asked questions and discussed topics like eel grass restoration projects, harbor fish and shellfish populations, environmentally friendly moorings, and climate change. Phil contributes to a Facebook blog, and includes underwater photos and video. It can be found at <http://www.Facebook.com/EPADivers>.

**State of the Park**

Marc Albert, National Park Service Stewardship Program Director, gave a presentation about the development of a State of the Park Report. Marc explained that the park is receiving regional assistance from NPS to prepare resource condition assessments that will help inform the development of a State of the Park Report. The report is essentially a snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of a park's priority resources and values. State of the Park Reports also highlight key management issues, accomplishments, and challenges, and will help inform the development of a Resource Stewardship Strategy. The presentation is attached.

The process is as follows: Now through spring, background information for natural and cultural resource condition assessments will be gathered from various Partnership organizations. NPS will facilitate a workshop in the spring, then the draft State of the Park Report will be completed, with the final approval and publishing of the report expected in summer 2014. The resource stewardship strategy is scheduled to be published in fall 2014.

Council members requested to be part of the process. Elisabeth Solomon noted that Native American involvement in cultural resource strategy discussions is crucial. Marc welcomed the interest and the involvement.

Marc reminded all that the goal of the workshop in spring is to produce a draft report. Participants should be subject matter specialists and should be prepared to come for every day of the workshop. He invited all to contact him with any questions, comments, or suggestions at any time, and assured the council that they will have access to review the draft document.

**Ask the Superintendent**

Giles Parker introduced himself as the new Superintendent for Boston Harbor Islands. He said he was excited to be returning to Boston and to begin working with all the park partners. His last position with NPS was as Chief of Staff of New York Harbor Parks.

Giles responded to a variety of questions and comments.

- Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, passed along an idea from Maria Freddura, Daily Catch, to add a donation choice for the 2016 NPS Anniversary on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax forms.
- Bill Reardon asked how the islands were featured on the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps that showed 100 year flood ranges. He noticed about a 1/3 of Boston was underwater.
- Maureen Cavanaugh reported that Mike Dyer, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, had done a marketing presentation at the last Partnership meeting. She asked if the Partnership's Marketing Committee was going to be reactivated.

### **New Business**

CMD Jason Smith announced that United States Coast Guard (USCG) has put together a 2016 working group together to plan for the 2016 Anniversaries (20<sup>th</sup> park, 100<sup>th</sup> NPS, and 300<sup>th</sup> Boston Light). He reported that USCG has \$1.1M dedicated for improvement projects for island infrastructure.

Susanne Gall Marsh requested that a presentation about NPS visitor Satisfaction surveys be made at the Council's Annual Meeting in March.

### **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
12/4/13 Meeting Attendees

**MEMBERS PRESENT (X)**

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

**Others Present**

Marc Albert, NPS	X
Theresa Czerepica**	X
Susannah Corona	
Stuart Dalzell, MASSPORT	X
Jane Ellis, BHIA	
Kelly Fellner, NPS	X
Phil Griffiths, BHIA	X
Bill Hale**	X
Hugh Hawthorne, NPS	X
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	
Suzanne Gall Marsh**	X
Pat Morss**	X
Karen O'Donnell**	
Giles Parker, NPS	X
Mary Raczko	X
CMD Jason Smith, USCG	X
Sally Snowman, USCG	
Kristen Wyman	X

\*pending member

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

\*\*Emeritus Council Member