

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Twenty-second Meeting Minutes
May 12, 1999 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Hale & Dorr, 60 State St., Boston, MA 26th Floor
*As Corrected***

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Douglas MacDonald, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Holly Richardson, representing Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC);

Chairman Webber called the twenty-second meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to order and declared a quorum.

Review of minutes from the April 15, 1999 meeting

There was a motion to accept the minutes from the April 15 meeting. **The motion was approved.**

Planning Committee – Water Transportation

Diane Haynes presented the recommended water transportation plan for the years 2000 to 2003. The plan included multiple gateway routes and multiple operators. There would be an opportunity for independent charter operations, which does not exist under the current contract. The free inter-island water shuttle would be funded by a pool generated by landing fees. The goal is to keep fares low and to offer other special rates to open up opportunities to get to the islands and to encourage repeat visitation. The back up plan was to have the water transportation, including the shuttle, provided by a single operator. There would still be opportunities for charter service.

There were several questions about the specifics of the routes. Deer Island was not shown as a hub. Diane responded that this is a short-term plan and Deer Island is not expected to be on-line until 2003. There is flexibility built into the plan to allow for service to islands as they come on-line. Other islands like Little Brewster would be serviced by charter operations. It was asked why there was no direct route from Hull to Peddock's Island and why the Hingham route stopped only at Peddock's Island and not Hull. The answer was that it had been discussed and was an attempt to balance routes with a similar number of stops and also to get more service to Peddock's Island. The question was raised on how the free shuttle would work in the multiple operator environment.

The Charlestown Navy Yard, the Seaport District, and East Boston were suggested as hubs. Improvements for the service out of Lynn were suggested. Larger boats with a more comfortable ride, a daily schedule and a more secure parking lot could encourage ridership.

Nominating Committee

Rob Moir, Terry Savage, and Dick Howe volunteered for the Nominating Committee with the task of selecting the officers for the next term of the Partnership. Linda Haar was nominated for the committee, but was not present. Partnership members who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or serving as one of the officers should contact George Price.

Finance Committee

Cathy Douglas Stone reported that the Finance Committee would be focusing on documenting funding assumptions in written form. The assumptions will lay out the explicit desire of the Partnership to support the park, at least in part, by fees and to have a mechanism for us to retain fees for improvements and programs. The assumptions will take some time to formalize and will be presented to the Partnership for full discussion.

Cathy reported on the discussion on the legislative initiative. Rob Moir raised the 1996 state legislation, which allowed for interagency cooperation on the Boston Harbor Islands. Although the 1996 legislation may not meet all our needs it is “on the books” and could assist us. The other long-term legislative need is to address the five-year cap on contracts, which limits long term investment by the private or not-for-profit sector. However, the five year issue is such a major one, we do not want it to slow down our initial legislative need.

Summer Review

The special events calendar should be available by the end of the month. An offer was extended to put any additional events on the website that did not make the printing deadline. Please send the listing of events to Mary Gontaruk, NPS. The calendar was an example of cooperation among the Partners. The DEM provided the printing and the manager of the project and the NPS provided the design and administrative support.

Thom Dugan, MDC, Brad Sands, DEM, Claudia Smith-Reid, MWRA, Alden Gifford, Thompson Island, and Dick Howe, World's End reported on the specific events for their organizations. Greg Ketchen, Advisory Council announced that the City of Boston and the New England Aquarium are sponsoring a first ever camping trip on Long Island for inner city youth.

Bob Krim, Boston History Collaborative, presented an overview of the projects his organization is working on. These projects include: Boston by Sea: The Maritime Trail, The Literary Trail, The Abolition to Civil Rights Trail and a family history website. The Maritime Trail should be on-line by the end of the summer and will consist of both a walking tour and a boat tour.

Maynard Goldman announced a very timely anonymous grant that the Island Alliance received in the amount of \$350,000. The grant is for the Little Brewster program and the development of an economic development plan.

Advisory Council Report

Suzanne Gall Marsh, vice-chair, gave a brief update of the last Advisory Council meeting. She said that the council is preparing a budget. She requested that the Planning Committee provide a representative at the next council meeting June 4 to discuss the water transportation plan. She also requested that the Advisory Council be listed on the website of the Partnership.

Public Comment

Dick Silverman, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the new web site of the Friends, www.FBHI.org. Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced that the volunteer training had begun and that the office is now staffed five days a week.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Advisory Council, asked when Peddock's Island would be open. Holly Richardson answered that it is not expected to open until the middle of the summer due to an engineering problem with the pier. Suzanne asked the Partnership to offer support to the MDC

to open the island as soon as possible. She also requested that there be an orientation trip to Peddock's Island scheduled for this summer, so that the island could be seen during the summer season. The original trip to Peddock's Island took place during the winter.

Sam Sapiel, Advisory Council announced a meeting of Native Americans on Monday, May 17 at 105 Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain and extended invitations to all. The purpose of the meeting is to review the status of the Plan and Planning Alternatives.

Diane Haynes announced a field trip to Spectacle Island on Friday, June 25. Details will be forthcoming.

Lance Campbell, BRA, announced the date of Water Transportation Awareness Week, May 24-28. Call Lance for details.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.