

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**  
**Twenty-third Meeting Minutes**  
**Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, Boston, MA, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**June 9, 1999, 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

*As Corrected*

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Claudia Smith-Reid, Advisory Council; James Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Betsy Shure Gross for Bob Durand, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)

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

**Review of minutes from the May 12, 1999 meeting**

The approval of the minutes was postponed until the July meeting.

**Planning Committee**

Jim Doolin said that the general management plan will be a long-term, very generic document, and that the Planning Committee wanted a more specific guideline, a five-year (2000 – 2005) strategic plan. There are joint meetings planned between the Finance and the Planning Committees. The purpose of the first joint meeting will be to discuss the process that the Partnership should use to set priorities for new funding of operations and capital projects over the next five years. Suzanne Gall Marsh asked what fiscal year the strategic plan would fall under. The question was noted and will be responded to at the next meeting.

Barbara Mackey, NPS, presented a preliminary schedule for the general management plan. Peter Webber opened the floor to comments. There was discussion about the timetable, and possibly expediting the process. After discussion, it was agreed that although this schedule is extended from the original timetable, it is still very tight and that the time is needed for review of comments, editing and designing. The deadline for the plan is November 1, 1999. Submitting the plan a couple of months late would be an informal process. The funding for the plan expires September 30, 1999, so it is important that the delay not be excessive. It was decided that it was important to submit a preliminary plan by the due date of November 1, to show that progress is being made. The current timetable will allow for this submission.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Advisory Council, said that the council is prepared to be involved in the outreach to the public regarding the plan. The council suggested that there be a display set up, maybe on George's Island, that explained the alternatives. Peter said that the summer season could be a great opportunity to reach the visitors of the Park, and asked if a display was possible. Barbara Mackey thought that it might be a possibility and would report back to the Partnership on the issue.

## **Finance Committee**

Cathy Douglas Stone mentioned the upcoming joint meeting between the Finance and Planning Committees. She said that the meeting would not include the full committees, but rather representatives of both that will deal with the agendas for subsequent meetings. The Finance Committee is also working on funding assumptions and should have a draft ready for the Partnership to review soon.

## **Other Reports**

### Web Page

The visitor guide is on-line. Two companion sites, the NPS park reference and the education resource web page also need to be added. There are some changes that need to be made and the event calendar still needs to be added. The search continues for a webmaster to do the work; hopefully, Massport will assist in the project.

### Little Brewster

Captain Chuck Beck said that the public opening of Little Brewster is moving forward. He said that this effort is a shining example of the Partners working together. Massport has provided the use of a floating dock; Island Alliance has secured grant money; NPS is developing the interpretive programming and is coordinating the efforts of the Partners as the visitor program is developed; the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Friends are providing volunteer staff. The target date for the public opening is July 19. There were questions of specific operating issues.

Captain Beck said that this program will not prevent other cruises to the island, opportunities for other events will be incorporated into the plan.

### Fan Pier

The signs are up at Fan Pier. The retail operation, the McDonalds, visitor information station and the Discovery Center should be open in July.

### Training

The collaborative training this year is scheduled for the week of June 14. The first three days of training will be held on Thompson Island. This year the program was expanded to include a broader range of front line personnel. The agencies represented were from the MDC, DEM, NPS, US Coast Guard, and the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. The goal of the training is to help create a cohesive unit that will provide consistent and accurate information to the public throughout the season and also to improve communication between the Partnership front line personnel.

### Nominating Committee

Peter Webber said that the recommendation for Chair and Vice-Chair would be made at the July meeting.

### DEM

A large environmental remediation project on Gallop's Island is now complete. Seventeen tons of shingles were removed from the island. It was a massive undertaking and was completed last month with lots of cooperation with the MDC. Other public safety projects, capping cellar holes, and fencing in areas on Gallop's and Bumpkin islands are also nearing completion.

### Long Island Camp

There are four camping sessions planned for inner-city children on Long Island this summer. The camp is sponsored by the City of Boston and the New England Aquarium. The Mass Environmental Trust contributed a large donation to make the program possible.

### Deer and Nut Islands

It was announced that the Deer Island tour scheduled for Saturday, June 12, was cancelled because there were no reservations as of today, June 9. There is a groundbreaking, tree planting ceremony on Nut Island on Friday, August 27, at 10:00 AM.

### Peddock's Island

Karen O'Donnell, Advisory Council, asked for an update on Peddock's Island. Brian Broderick replied that the opening of the island depends on the completion of the pier. The pier itself is structurally sound, but there are problems with the handicapped accessible float. Boats can not dock at the pier until the issue is resolved. The MDC has made this a priority and is strategizing with legal council to try to find a way to open the island. Staff were making calls today exploring other options, such as renting equipment, trying to get the island open as soon as possible.

### Boat Tours

The NPS Regional Directors were taken on a boat tour of the islands. Marie Rust, Northeast Regional Director and Sandy Walter, Deputy Regional Director express their thanks to everyone involved in the very successful trip. There was a lot of curiosity about this unique model of a partnership and advisory council as they are very different from others that are found in the NPS.

Jay Kiely, Representative Michael Capuano's Office, is organizing a boat trip for the Congressman on June 19. Invitations have been sent to all Partners and Advisory Council members.

### Native American

George reported on an informal consultation meeting held at the American Indian Center arranged by Sam Sapiel and Gary McCann on May 17. The purpose of the meeting was to review the management plan with tribal members in anticipation of a formal consultation process once the draft plan is completed. Sam Sapiel and Edith Andrews attended as well as representatives from a number of tribes including the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma and the Nipmuck people here in Massachusetts. Representatives from the NPS Archaeology Center/NAGPRA from Valley Forge PA, DEM, MWRA and the Advisory Council also attended. Barbara Mackey and Bruce Jacobson gave an overview of the planning process.

### **Advisory Council Report**

Jack Wiggin, Chair, gave a status report for the council. He thanked Captain Beck for providing meeting space for the last meeting on June 3. The voting process was finalized at that meeting. There are two new members of the council, Carlton Johnson and Karen O'Donnell. Five members were re-nominated, Greg Ketchen, Tom Lindberg, John Lewis, Steve Comer and David Calnan. Sha-King Alston and Seth Kaplan were nominated to fill two vacant seats.

Peter Lewenberg, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Boston Harbor Islands, attended the June 3 meeting and the council commended the great commitment that the Secretary is showing to the park. Jack also thanked Diane Haynes for presenting the water transportation plan.

The council is looking forward to reviewing the draft general management plan, and the council wants to be involved in holding neighborhood meetings in surrounding communities and will coordinate them with the rest of the public outreach meetings. They will continue to work at expanding the constituency and suggested that the executive summary be printed in Spanish and perhaps other languages as well.

They presented a draft budget to the Partnership as a springboard for discussion. It included costs for communications, meetings, staff support, special projects, and transportation. The council requested that a member of the Advisory Council be invited to meetings with the congressional delegation along with the Partnership representatives.

The council requested an orientation trip to Peddock's Island in the summer season.

Spectacle Island was a major topic of the last meeting of the Advisory Council. There was a concern about the Central Artery's commitment to the island. Cathy Douglas Stone responded that the Spectacle Island situation is being closely monitored. They are working towards identifying the exact shortfalls, are waiting for the hard data, and are close to the 50% numbers that are needed. Betsy Shure Gross said that Spectacle Island project is very important and that there will be a full presentation when more is known.

### **New Business**

The Operations Committee discussed the need for a process to follow regarding event and program sponsorship. The situation has evolved that one Partner is initially contacted about an event. That Partner has then referred the call to the appropriate Partner or Partners. Quite often, this referral has been misperceived as an endorsement for the program. There is no intention that every event go through the Partnership; but there should be guidelines about sponsorship, and the Operations Committee seems like a good forum. There was a motion made to give the responsibility of creating guidelines for the Partnership to follow regarding event sponsorship to the Operations Committee. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

The question of how the islands should interface with Sail 2000 came up at a safety sub-committee meeting. Many Partners are already involved and there is no intention to duplicate efforts, but it was thought that the Operations Committee could be a good communication vehicle between the larger Sail 2000 committee and the Partnership. There was a motion made to assign the responsibility of interfacing with Sail 2000 to the Operations Committee. The motion was amended to assign the coordination of interfacing with Sail 2000 to the Operations Committee. **The amended motion was unanimously approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.