

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**  
**Twenty-fifth Meeting Minutes**  
**New England Aquarium Conference Center**  
**Long Wharf, Boston, MA**  
**September 16, 1999, 10:00AM – 12:00PM**  
*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; Bob Durand, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

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

**Review of minutes from the July 16, 1999, meeting**

Terry Savage made a motion to accept the minutes of the July meeting. The motion was seconded. **The motion was carried.**

**Planning Committee**

Barbara Mackey, NPS, reported on the status of the general management plan. She said that she was in the process of compiling and incorporating the comments from the internal Partnership agency review of the draft general management plan. The content was not substantively changed by the comments, but they improved the text. The draft is expected to be ready for publication in November. There will be a sixty-day public comment period following publication. There will also be a number of public meetings held during that time. The Planning Committee is also working on summary brochure of the draft plan that will be distributed to the general public.

There was a presentation of the status of the summary brochure. The brochure is in the early stages of development and the presentation focused on the concepts that it would include. The pictures and text are under development and will be submitted for formal review when complete. There was discussion of the content and purpose of the brochure. There was general agreement that the summary should focus on the islands, explain the preferred alternative and give the public an opportunity to comment on concepts presented in the draft management plan.

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, gave a presentation of the strategic plan. The plan is a tool of performance management and will be used to implement the general management plan within a five-year framework. The Planning Committee will take the lead in the development of the plan and the Finance Committee will be active in setting priorities. The draft plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Partnership for review in February. Bob Durand asked that a hard copy of the presentation made to the Partners be available to anyone that requested it.

### **Finance/Legislation Committee**

Cathy Douglas Stone reported that the Finance Committee has been focusing on the state legislation and developing funding assumptions. They have also been working with the Planning Committee on the five-year strategic plan. They have requested budgets from all committees, and have received only one, from the Advisory Council. The Finance sub-committee has gathered most of the information regarding the match money and should be ready to report to the Partnership soon. Cathy Douglas Stone said that Doug Leab, DEM, has taken a new position and has left the Finance Committee. She suggested that a letter, signed by the Chairman, be sent thanking him for his efforts.

### **Marketing Committee**

Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance, reported that there was a retreat held that focused on the branding of the park. There is a need to develop consistency in the look of material related to the park and in park descriptions. There will be a presentation given to each Partner agency to introduce the concepts. There is an inter-committee meeting scheduled by the Marketing Committee to discuss installing welcome signs on the islands next summer.

The committee is working on a draft role and function statement.

There is an opportunity to get park calendars out in the Sail 2000 mailings. The calendar information is needed by January in order to meet the deadline.

### **Education Committee**

George Price reported that the Education Committee continues work on the development of an educational resource guide for the islands. The guide should be complete by late fall. It will be web-based with hard copies available on request. There will also be a summary brochure published that will advertise the web address.

The committee is working on a draft role and function statement and will coordinate efforts to determine how the committee best fits into the strategic plan.

### **Native American Meeting**

Edith Andrews reported that there was a Native American conference held in Schaghticoke, NY. She said that this was the first time in three hundred and fifty years that a member of the Wampanoag Tribe met with other Tribes at Schaghticoke.

### **Little Brewster**

There was a lot of interest in the Boston Light program this summer. The tours have been sold out every week. The trips were put on hold because the floating dock had to be removed due to Hurricane Floyd. A press release will be put out today. Captain Chuck Beck thanked the Massport, NPS, Friends and Island Alliance for cooperating in the development of the program and the MDC for their assistance in moving the dock for the storm.

### **Advisory Council**

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Vice-chair of the Advisory Council, announced that the council meeting scheduled for today will be postponed because of the storm warnings.

Suzanne requested that the council be involved with the development of the summary brochure. Barbara Mackey responded that she would convey the request to Linda Haar, chair of the

Planning Committee, but did not foresee a problem with the request. The work on the summary is being done by a sub-committee of the Planning Committee.

A proposal to the Merck Family fund to support public outreach by the council has been submitted and there should be a decision by November.

Suzanne requested that an update be given about visitation numbers and a report given on the summer evaluation of the park. The Operations Committee will report to the Partnership in November.

### **Public Comment**

Nancy Martin, Friends and Volunteers of the Boston Harbor Islands, reported that there have been volunteers on George's Island seven days a week and weekends on other islands. There has been a person in the office everyday this season. The Friend's Boston Light tours were very successful, and volunteers have joined in the effort with the Partnership tours. The sunset trips were also very successful. There were two major concerns reported from the volunteers. They reported that the boats were often late and many visitors complained. In addition, they were concerned with the lack of staff on the islands. Peter Lewenberg said that his office is initiating a meeting with the state agencies in November to recap the summer and staffing issues will be discussed. Partners are invited to attend.

Vivien Li, The Boston Harbor Association, suggested that the partners send a thank you to the volunteers.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends and Volunteers of Boston Harbor Islands, commented on the Boston Globe article that focused on the "bunnies" on the islands. She said that the rabbits are destroying the vegetation on many of the islands and the skunks are a particular problem on Grape Island. Bob Durand asked if the Department of Wildlife was involved in the islands. It was thought that they had some involvement on the DEM owned islands, but not the MDC owned islands. There is baseline inventory data available.

The next Partnership meeting will be Thursday, October 21, at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.