

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Thirty-fourth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
June 22, 2000, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance (IA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Stone, City of Boston; Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) for Bob Durand, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT).

Cathy Stone, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from May 18, 2000

Gary McCann requested changes to the Native American Meeting section. George Price objected to one of the requested changes. There was discussion. Cathy Stone suggested that George and Gary work on the revisions after the meeting. She made a motion to accept the minutes with the revisions that are agreed upon. **The motion was approved.**

Boston by Sea

Bob Krim, Boston History Collaborative, reported that the "Boston by Sea" tours had started. He explained that a portion of the proceeds will go to the park. He presented a check to the Island Alliance with thanks to the Partners and everyone that had collaborated on the project. He then introduced the actors, who gave a 20 minute theatrical presentation of the program.

Planning Committee

Terry Savage announced that Linda Haar was promoted to Planning and Development Director for the BRA. He thanked her on behalf of the Partnership for her attention to this project. Linda said that she would remain committed to the Partnership.

Linda said that the Planning Committee has been working on priorities for water transportation and determining what are "gateways". The July 18 meeting of the committee will focus on comments the draft GMP. It will be a session for the Partners to bring comments forward that were not perceived prior to release of the draft. The meeting will offer an opportunity to relate comments without writing a formal letter.

Finance Committee

Cathy Stone reported that the technical sub-committee continues to move ahead. The site visits to review the systems used by the agencies for financial reporting has begun; the USCG was the first to complete the process.

Chuck Beck received his letter from the Secretary of the Interior designating him voting partner for the USCG.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg reported that the committee met last Tuesday. Massport has placed lighted signs and a video about the harbor islands in Logan Airport. The Boston Harbor Islands website updates are in process and the kayaking television program will be filmed during Sail Boston. Thompson Island public visitation has been small, but is growing. The committee continues expanding retail and increased efforts for branding the park.

Operations Committee

Peter Webber reported that last year, over nine tons of asbestos-containing material was removed from Gallops Island. Last week, on a routine island-wide visit of the island, some asbestos-containing debris materials were observed. DEM will continue the clean-up process and is researching the best long-term solution. It is expected that public access can be maintained on many trails, the overlook picnic areas and beach. They will fence off areas where the hazardous material has been identified and post signs indicating the restricted or closed areas. The process should be complete by next Friday. The island will be closed until the areas are secured and testing is completed. They are hopeful that the island will be open for Sail Boston. Visitation will be limited to 1,000.

Brian Broderick reported that the MDC undertook a major clearing project on Peddock's Island. They have removed debris from the visitor center and barracks. Inoperable vehicles were removed, trees in the parade ground were felled and brush was cleared. They widened trails, the parade ground, and roads were opened up. They will restore the original flagpole. The roof of the visitor center was repaired with MDC and Island Alliance funds last year making it possible for work to begin on the interior this year. There are some federal funds that will help with the interior work. Rangers will be stationed on the island starting this weekend and there should be an official opening in early July.

The Central Artery is moving forward on Spectacle Island. There was a suggestion to send the new chair a letter from the Partnership as an introduction to the park and to convey the importance of Spectacle Island.

Island Alliance

Kathy Abbott reported that the Island Alliance is halfway to its fundraising goal for this year. The Drumlin Society cruise was a success and she gave thanks to Brian Broderick and Bob Krim for attending.

Retail efforts have been expanded: they are partnering with the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands, and two full time staff people have been hired. This weekend merchandise should be available on the boats and Long Wharf, as well as the store at Fan Pier.

The mooring project is going through the permitting process. There have been objections by lobsterman and some private boaters. The moorings were originally pursued at the request of private boaters. She suggested that anyone that was supportive of the project write letters to the Army Core of Engineers.

The Island Lights creative team was instructed to cut costs in half and report back. There will be a series of workshops regarding the economic development plan in July to gather ideas and familiarize the team with the guidelines for the projects.

The annual dinner has been moved up a month at the request of Representative Joseph Moakley, to Monday, October 23.

Advisory Council

Jack Wiggin reported that the Advisory Council last met on June 7. They discussed the draft GMP and the community meetings. There have been three community meetings so far, in Dorchester, Quincy and Salem. There was a good deal of publicity recently done and it is hoped that attendance will increase at future meetings. The comments from these meetings will be captured to include in the comments of the council as a whole. The council will submit their comments within the public comment period. It is hoped that the interest groups will prepare comments and have them ready for review for the next meeting on July 12.

Suzanne Gall Marsh said that advising the Partnership on operational issues is part of the purpose of the council. At the last meeting, the council discussed creating an annual park report card as a vehicle to inform the Partnership. The report card would list what is working and what isn't working operationally. They want to develop a draft visitor survey by the next meeting. Surveys would also be filled out by island volunteers, island staff, Advisory Council members and other members of the Partnership after visiting the islands. Boston Harbor Cruises has provided ferry passes to council members that are working on the project. Peter Webber said that DEM has had a great deal of experience with surveys and suggested that they talk to their Chief of Recreation. Dick Howe said that they are currently working with Prof. Bob Manning and are doing surveys at 28 of their properties. He suggested they call Lisa Vernagaard. Brian Broderick said the MDC also has experience with visitor surveys and suggested that the survey be brief, non-intrusive and focused. He added that it is critical to define the purpose of the survey before questions are devised in order to get meaningful data. George Price said that the NPS is working with Prof. Manning this summer on a visitor use survey for the islands.

Public Comment

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Inter-Tribal Committee, thanked the NPS for distributing the draft GMP to over 100 members of several tribal councils. He said that he looked forward to the consultation.

Gary stated that in December of 1991, the tribes and MWRA put together an agreement of understanding regarding the memorial on Deer Island. He said that the issue is outside the scope of the park, only the MWRA and the tribes are involved, no other agencies.

Gary referred to a letter in the last Partnership package regarding the inclusion of state recognized tribes in the Advisory Council, and said that there should be strong input of federally recognized tribes only.

Gary was concerned about any disruption of soil on Peddock's Island, and said the federally recognized tribes should be contacted. Brian Broderick said that there was no digging, other than tilling of a couple of inches and that the MDC complies with all state laws and works with appropriate agencies. Peter Webber stated that the state requires the involvement of the Commission on Indian Affairs, which includes state-recognized tribes and will continue to do so. Peter recognized Jim Peters, Executive Director of the Commission on Indian Affairs for the Commonwealth who was present.

Karen O'Donnell, Peddock's Island Association, complimented the MDC on the tremendous amount of work already accomplished. She was saddened to hear reports of vandalism on Peddock's and said something needs to be done to change the attitude of this and future generations, perhaps with educational efforts and public meetings.

Edith Andrews sadly reported that there was a canoe accident just off of Lovell's that resulted in a death of a tribal member while he was trying to save another. She asked about speed limits in the harbor and who is responsible to respond to emergencies. Capt. Chuck Beck said that he was familiar with the accident and there were two people in a very small boat in a very large body of water and they were not wearing life jackets. There are no speed limits. There are a many agencies with responsibilities for safety and law enforcement in the harbor.

Suzanne Gall Marsh asked about access to the islands during Sail Boston. There will be regular commercial ferry service from Hingham and regular water shuttle service. There will also be one boat from Long Wharf.

New Business

Cathy Stone congratulated Brad Swing, City of Boston, for his efforts getting an RFP out regarding public access on Long Island. She said that anyone that would like a copy should contact Brad. They should receive responses by the end of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 PM.