

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Thirty-fifth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
July 20, 2000, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PRESENT: Phil Lemnios, Claudia Smith Reid, 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; Secretary Bob Durand, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), Chair, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Lewenberg for Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Holly Richardson for Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT).

Secretary Durand, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from June 22, 2000

Dick Howe made a motion to accept the minutes of June 22, 2000. **The motion was approved.**

Planning Committee

Linda Haar announced a planning workshop on August 3.

Jim Doolin began a discussion about the best process for Partners to use in making comments on and corrections to the draft general management plan. He pointed out that MASSPORT—and the other Partnership agencies—could not respond as a member of the public to a document that was developed by the Partnership of which MASSPORT was a member. It became clear in the discussion that the review by the general public was a different process than review by the Partners. There was general agreement that the Partners' comments and concerns would be incorporated in the draft through the Partnership committee work.

The committee continues to work on the draft 5-year strategic plan for the park, coordinated by Bruce Jacobson, NPS. Linda said that the committee had been looking at the park as a whole in selecting priorities for the 5-year period, but another option would be to begin focusing the Partnership's efforts on one island at a time. There was agreement that it was crucial to demonstrate progress and successes. The committee will continue to work with the Finance Committee on setting priorities through the strategic plan.

Operations Committee

There were reports given on Sail Boston 2000. Captain Beck reported that from a public safety standpoint it was a very successful event, in fact there were fewer incidents than on a normal weekend. Holly Richardson, MDC, said that things went well on George's, Lovell's and Peddock's. There were no major problems and they received significant support from the State Police. She said that she was at the command center at Castle Island and that they had a very well behaved crowd there. Susan Hamilton, DEM, said that there were about 500 visitors on Gallops and that things went well. Claudia Smith Reid said that the MWRA did not advertise that Deer Island was open, but that they hosted 1200 visitors from the town of Winthrop and that

it was a great day. Cathy Douglas Stone said that things went well on Long Island. Spectacle Island was not open, and the closure was enforced by City Police Officers.

Little Brewster visitation has not met the anticipated numbers. There has been a decision to pay for advertisements for the rest of the season in the hopes that the numbers could be raised so that the program could be self-sustaining.

The committee is working with Boston Harbor Cruises on communication issues to ensure visitors are receiving correct information regarding the islands.

The public land core youth programs are underway. The youth attended the first open house at Thompson Island and have started their work programs. There will be a complete report at the end of the summer.

Susan Hamilton announced that Gallops Island was opened July 8. Fencing and signage is in place around the restricted areas, but the prime usage points are still available. She said that DEM is working on the long-term solution. She thanked the Project Office for helping to disseminate accurate information regarding the status of the island.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg reported that the islands got a good deal of publicity during Sail Boston 2000 that included 14-television hits as well as newspaper coverage. Local stations did filler pieces and the Trailside show was filmed.

Island Alliance

Terry Margerum gave an update on the status of the Economic Development Plan. He reminded all that it was a 4-phase study. Currently, they are in the middle of phase one, establishing project goals and policy framework. He said that the team has been concentrating on interviews and the workshops. Today there will be a meeting to discuss the policy framework.

Kathy Abbott reported that the retail operation has been expanded this year. The store is open at the Discovery Center and had a successful week during Sail Boston. Sales have also improved overall. Merchandise is being sold on the boats and they are hopeful that they will get a cart in place on Long Wharf this season. The Friends of Boston Harbor Islands have been partners in the operation and she thanked them for their efforts.

The mooring program is still in the permitting process. There has been opposition to the program from lobstermen concerned about their fishing areas and some boaters that were concerned that there would be no free anchorage points. Negotiations are underway in the hopes that a permit can be issued next season.

Advisory Council

Jack Wiggin, Chair, said that the council last met on July 12. Prior to that meeting, each interest group met and prepared their comments on the draft GMP. They are working on putting together comments from the council as a whole that will include the interest group's comments and comments heard at the public meetings. Jack thanked the Park Service staff for their efforts working the public meetings.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Vice-chair, said that the council is in the process of applying for grants for funding their efforts. She said that they continue to explore how other parks produce revenue and retain the funds and encouraged the Partnership to decide whose concession law the park will fall under.

She said that the council is working on the process for providing the Partnership with feedback about summer operations. They are working on a survey for council members, park staff and volunteers to use. The information will be collected and reported to the Partnership in the fall.

Public Comment

Vivien Li, The Boston Harbor Association, said that they are initiating a pilot program in Chelsea. Youths from the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club and other Chelsea-based youth groups will have the opportunity to visit the islands and learn about them.

Karen O'Donnell, Peddock's Island Association, said that she was pleased to read the New York Times article about the park. She suggested amenities be standardized throughout the park, for example there are dinghies on Grape, but not Lovell's and Peddock's. She suggested that more bathrooms be put on Peddock's.

There was discussion about the floating debris problem on the harbor. Greg Ketchen said that he and Vivien Li had been working with a group bringing attention to this issue. This year the City has provided a boat for clean up, which is a great step, but is not enough. It will take a partnership of federal, state, city and private entities to support the larger effort. A strong leader is needed; a natural choice is the MWRA. Greg said that they would write a letter to the MWRA suggesting that they take the lead in the effort to clean the floating debris in the harbor.

Doug MacDonald, MWRA, clarified the memorials project. The MWRA received a \$15k grant from the Browne Fund to support the planning of the memorials project for Deer Island. It is hoped to engage members of the Native American and Irish communities to work together to continue the fundraising for the project and determine the best way to recognize those who lost their lives on Deer Island.

New Business

Bob Durand said that he had recently met with Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry. He requested that the Partnership send a formal letter thanking them for their support and inviting them to the islands. Cathy Douglas Stone made a motion to write the letter. **The motion was approved.**

It is expected that the Native American consultation will be held the 2nd or 3rd week of August.

A Nominating Committee was designated. Members are Linda Haar, Dick Howe, Peter Lewenberg, Rob Moir and Phil Lemnios.

There was a request to change the date of future Partnership meetings. It was agreed to change the meetings from Thursday mornings to Tuesdays from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.