

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston,  
January 16, 2001, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Claudia Smith-Reid, Edith Andrews, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Dan May, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Stone, Office of Environmental Services, City of Boston; Secretary Bob Durand, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, representing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management; Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

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

**Approval of minutes from December 18, 2001**

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of December 18, 2001.

**The motion was approved.**

**Reports**

Planning Committee

Cathy Stone said that the Planning and Finance Committees recently held a joint meeting to discuss setting priorities for funding requests. Linda Haar said that they opened the discussion again on how to prioritize funding needs set in the strategic plan (phase one initiatives), if there should be a shift in focus to one island or specific category or if they should continue to be opportunistic in a broader sense.

The joint committee also discussed developing yearly work plans and suggested that each Partnership committee develop a plan. These committee plans could be combined and used to develop a Partnership work plan.

Cathy Stone said that they also discussed short-term plans for the coming year and many ideas were generated that could increase park visitor numbers.

Partnership Restructuring

Linda reported that the discussions continued regarding the structure of the Partnership meetings. She said that the goal of the discussions was to make the Partnership meetings effective as park managers move out of the planning phase and into the implementation of the general management plan. The group also discussed changes to the bylaws that would add flexibility to the meeting schedules, and are looking at ways to make the meetings more substantive.

She said that a retreat for Partners and Alternates was suggested as a way to increase team building. She stressed that it would not be a time for policy discussions or changes, just a way to get to understand each other better. Edith Andrews asked if the Advisory Council would be invited. Bob Durand answered that the current thinking was to invite only Voting Partners and Alternates (the Advisory Council has four members that fall into this category). It was thought that this type of exercise would only be effective with a smaller group. Peter Webber agreed but said they will keep the issue open, perhaps consider also including the officers. George Price will coordinate the group and come up with proposed dates.

### Operations Committee

Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, gave an update on water transportation. He thought that there was some confusion resulting from the vote taken at the last meeting by the Partnership regarding the water transportation contract. The intention was for the Partnership to take responsibility for water transportation as opposed to just the Department of Environmental Management and Metropolitan District Commission since the transportation needs have expanded outside their ownership. The intention was not a switch of responsibility to Island Alliance, but for Island Alliance to facilitate the actions of the Partnership. The Island Alliance Board of Directors has not yet voted on the issue. Island Alliance is happy to assist and is actively pursuing funding for the shuttle system this coming season. The Transportation Sub-committee has decided to execute the option to extend the current contract for one more year. The outstanding issue of funding the shuttle system still stands, and the sub-committee is exploring options. Samantha Overton Bussell asked if an amended vote of the partners was needed. It was thought that it was not necessary, as it was a vote looking toward the future and it holds true with intent. Samantha stressed the importance of the meeting minutes reflecting clear and accurate information.

### Sustainable Energy Sub-Committee

Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute, reported that the University of Massachusetts and Island Alliance received a \$150k grant from the Massachusetts Technology collaborative for the predevelopment of renewable energy: solar, wind and tidal power in the Boston Harbor Islands. He distributed a handout that described the project (attached).

Peter Lewenberg added that the Sustainable Energy Sub-committee has been very active and is working on several smaller projects. The wind monitoring tower on Thompson was moved to a new location, and will continue to generate data. The wind tower was also integrated into the Willauer School as part of an educational program. The photovoltaic system on Peddocks was evaluated by a team of engineers. There is hope that the system can become operational and even expanded.

### Island Alliance

Kathy Abbott announced that the Island Alliance received two grants totaling \$75k to expand the public land core youth program. She said that this was an opportunity to expand into a year round program and broaden the educational scope to include job exposure in Partner agencies and Advisory Council organizations.

### Advisory Council

Edith Andrews reported that the council met recently and reviewed their mission and goals statements. Suzanne Gall Marsh announced that the date of the annual meeting had changed to Monday, March 11. They have invited Congressman Stephen Lynch to speak at the meeting. She said that the council examined the interest group's objectives to find similarities to develop a working plan for the council as a whole, similar to what the committees are working on.

### **Public Comments**

Brad Swing, City of Boston, said that he was very pleased that the renewable energy project team received a grant and he thanked the team for consulting the Environment Department early on and incorporating input received about the city's specific concerns.

Brad said that the city continues to work on a master plan for limited public access to Long Island. They have plans to build an ADA accessible pier near the Hope Chapel. It is hoped that public access could be a win/win situation and could connect with critical job training. He said that the catering program of the Long Island Shelter is an example of this and he encouraged the park to take advantage of the services.

Brad mentioned the Massachusetts Audubon urban education center that opened recently. The center sits on a wildlife sanctuary near the Jamaica Plain/Mattapan border. The center was part of a demonstration project of renewable energy and is monitoring a 25-30% energy savings. The center runs several successful education programs geared to schools in Boston. The Partners discussed potential connections with the center and the sustainable design ideals shaping Spectacle Island. The group also discussed the importance of connecting the schools with the islands, as an outdoor classroom that teaches history, environmental science and now sustainable design concepts and renewable energy options.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced that the Friends Annual Meeting would be held on February 3.

Suzanne said that the Friends are joining a nationwide coalition for advocacy and funding issues of National Parks. Karen O'Donnell will represent the Friends in a conference held in Washington, DC on February 24-26 that will include meetings with congressmen and the director of the National Park Service.

Suzanne suggested considering putting the topic of new business ahead of public comments. She said that this could be more efficient allow the public to comment about all topics covered at the meeting.

Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, stated concern about the current dockside accessibility of the islands.

Alex Hall, Metropolitan District Commission, announced a winter wildlife cruise to Georges Island on February 26. The trip will include a cruise to the outer islands.

Chris Montgomery, Nipmuc Nation, asked about the status of the construction support building on Deer Island. George Price, National Park Service, reported that he contacted Fred Laskey, Executive Director of MWRA and that he and Peter Lewenberg will be meeting with Fred and his staff on the topic.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, said that they did receive a letter of support of their proposal for community meetings from the Boston City Council, which was signed by the former council president. Gary also reported that he did not have the signed copies of the resolutions that were requested by the Partners at the last meeting. Gary asked as a follow up to last meeting about the possibility of time on the agenda at a future meeting to discuss the community meetings and the resolutions presented at the last meeting. He encouraged the Partners to meet with Tribal Councils on reservations. Edith Andrews asked that Gary clarify resolution 1035. She said that Partners should be aware that this was a historical document and was not a new one. She stated that Tribes have met with the park. There was a motion to table the discussion. **The motion was approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM .