

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**  
**Forty-third Meeting Minutes**  
**Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA**  
**May 15, 2001, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Claudia Smith Reid, Rob Moir, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Secretary Bob Durand, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), Chair of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Alex Hall for David Balfour, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Peter Lewenberg, Department of Environmental Management; Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority; Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC).

Secretary Bob Durand, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. There was a moment of silence recognizing the passing of Brian Broderick, Director, Metropolitan District Commission Reservations & Historic Sites.

**Approval of minutes from March 20, 2001**

Jim Doolin made a motion to accept the minutes of March 20, 2001.

**The motion was approved.**

**Planning Committee**

Bruce Jacobson, NPS gave a report on the status of the draft final general management plan. He announced that the agency review draft will be distributed at the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for June 12. The Partners will be given the agency review draft at the June Partnership meeting and Advisory Council will have an opportunity to discuss it at the June 20 council meeting. The Planning Committee will hold a workshop on June 25 to discuss the draft in some detail and hold another meeting on July 10 to cover final points before making a recommendation to the Partnership, which will be asked to act on the plan on July 17. The document will then go to the Governor for review. After considering the final environmental impact statement a decision is expected on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior by the end of March 2002.

Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design Sub-committee

Bill Green gave an overview of the renewable energy and sustainable design sub-committee. The sub-committee has met regularly since October 2000 to discuss renewable energy technologies, resources, possible projects and funding. It was thought that the sub-committee should broaden their scope to include sustainable building technologies, energy conservation and maintenance issues. Bill distributed a written report (attached).

Secretary Durand suggested that the sub-committee narrow its focus to two or three specific projects to bring before the Partnership for review. Terry Savage agreed that the program should be prioritized and focused and that it was also important to do interpretation of the "green" technologies. Captain Beck said that historic structures and their specific needs should be recognized and prioritized in any plans.

Postponing the discontinuance of wind monitoring on Thompson Island was discussed.

### **Operations Committee**

George Price, NPS, reported that the park opened on April 28. George's Island is open seven days a week; Grape Island is open on the weekends.

The last meeting of the Operations Committee focused on water transportation issues.

George distributed an update about the spring island cleanups (attached). Brad Swing, City of Boston Office of Environmental Services, gave a report on the cleanup of Rainsford Island on May 5.

George reported on the trip to Nix's Mate. Staff including scientists, civil engineers and historians from various agencies (NPS, MDC, USCG and the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands) did an on-site visit to the structure. George showed pictures that demonstrated the magnitude of the structural problems. A repair solution is desired because of the historical significance of the structure. Captain Beck said that it should be feasible to repair since it would probably cost as much or more to dismantle the very large structure.

### **Marketing Committee**

Marianne Connolly reported that the Deer Island sign project is progressing. She said that they would like to finalize the text of the orientation sign by next week. It is the sign that will be used at gateways and hub islands throughout the park. She invited comments to be directed to Bruce Jacobson, NPS. Peter Lewenberg thanked the MWRA for their role taking the lead in the signage project. Secretary Durand requested that the Partnership give a formal presentation to the MWRA board. This presentation could be brought to the other Partner agencies as well to educate staff about the park.

Peter announced that the August 11 orchestral event on George's Island will be dedicated to Brian Broderick. Brian was very enthusiastic about the event, and it was hoped to make it an annual memorial event.

Peter reported that Partners were invited to the May meeting of the Marketing Committee to discuss a branding and marketing strategy. Patricia Nicolino of Nicolino & Company led a discussion about how to brand the park in a way to improve awareness and increase visitation. Peter invited any comments or questions.

### **Finance Committee**

George Price reported that Cathy Douglas Stone, Kathy Abbott, Peter Lewenberg, Phil Lemnios and he met with the congressional delegation in Washington, DC last week. They presented the financial match report, discussed many Partnership successes and park issues.

### **Advisory Council**

Tom Lindberg, Co-chair, thanked Phil for going to Washington to represent the council.

He stated the council was concerned with the level of staffing of the islands and the low operational budget.

Tom said that the Advisory Council elected new Partner representatives during the March election as well as several other new members and ex-officio members. The council has a standing request that an orientation trip be scheduled, which will especially benefit the new

members. George Price said that the trips in the past were all for specific purposes, the building of familiarity was of ancillary benefit. He will look into arranging a trip this year.

Tom stated that the Advisory Council had put a great deal of effort and emphasis on the park's general management plan. He thought that once it was released there should be a public meeting.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held June 20 at the New England Aquarium Conference Center from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. He encouraged the Partners to attend.

Mary Corcoran, Vice-chair, said that the park is not projecting an image across the state on the resources of the islands. A group met about ways to increase involvement of teachers. Secretary Durand said that there is an opportunity to reach students statewide with the message of the interconnection between the ecosystems of the Quabbin reservoir and Boston Harbor.

### **Public Comment**

Edith Andrews said that Native Americans have been meeting at the MWRA regarding the memorials project. More meetings are scheduled, a site for the memorial has not yet been chosen.

Carol Fithian, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, reported that the speaker series for volunteers has begun. She thanked the Boston Harbor Cruises captains for speaking and the MDC for the meeting space. She invited input on the program.

Suzanne Gall Marsh expressed concerns about Peddock's Island. She said that there are many cottages owned by MDC that are in various states of repair. She requested that the Partnership pay attention to the issue and assist the MDC with rehab and/or removing them. She made suggestions about possible resolutions and the benefits that they would bring to the visitor. Suzanne said this will also be an issue brought to the Advisory Council.

Greg Ketchen, New England Aquarium, announced that there is a harbor islands exhibit at the Aquarium.

Rob Moir, Hampshire College, said that the American Oystercatcher has returned to the islands.

### **New Business**

Captain Beck announced that the floating dock has been placed out on Little Brewster one week ahead of schedule. He announced the change of watch on Friday, May 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM.