

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston,  
May 21, 2002, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Claudia Smith-Reid and Joe Ferrino, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Dan May, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Cathy Stone, City of Boston, Department of Environmental Services; Secretary Bob Durand, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, representing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Peter Lewenberg, Department of Environmental Management; Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

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

He reported that the Joint Powers Agreement process between the Department of Environmental Management and the Metropolitan District Commission was moving forward. He said that Commissioner Balfour and Commissioner Webber were very supportive and were working hard along with their staff to facilitate the transition.

Secretary Durand also announced that the Thompson Island Conservation Restriction was signed. Alden Gifford gave thanks to the state and federal agencies for all their efforts.

**Approval of minutes from April 16, 2002**

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of April 16, 2002. **The motion was approved.**

**Education Committee**

Claudia Smith Reid said that the Education Committee continues to develop a work plan based on established goals.

She reported that Island Alliance received funding to expand the current seasonal youth program throughout the school year. The program will focus on environmental career opportunities.

Kelly Fellner gave a presentation about the learning center on the park website. The resource guide, which was a long-time project of the Partnership, is now on-line. Teachers can now browse the web to get information on harbor or island related school programs. They can get a full description, theme objectives, age group and ties to the Massachusetts frameworks. There is also an opportunity for teachers to find or share curriculum units on the Boston Harbor Islands. They are also developing a CD format of this information that can be mailed or handed out to teachers.

Secretary Durand suggested that Kelly contact Melissa Griffiths to create a link to this guide on the state website that already has connections with the schools in Massachusetts.

Samantha Overton Bussell suggested that an email registration feature would be helpful for teachers, as they often can't leave their classrooms to call.

### **Peddocks Island**

Kathy Abbott reported that Stanley Selengut, the developer of the very successful Maho Bay Camps in St. John, US Virgin Islands, visited Peddocks Island and did a walk around. He gave a very positive response about the proposed eco-camp project. George Price said that Stanley gave a slide show presentation showing four levels of camps, from primitive to upscale that were all sensitive to the environment. Kathy Abbott gave thanks to Secretary Durand for his efforts to secure mitigation funds from the Maritimes Phase III Hubline Project to be used toward infrastructure on Peddocks Island. George Price said that the NPS at the regional level is also very enthusiastic about the project. The park received great press that could help jumpstart further development. The Partners discussed the realities of the project. Kathy stated that it is of the utmost importance to protect the natural and cultural resources on the island; a central and challenging aspect of the project will be the adaptive reuse of the historic buildings there.

### **Partnership Retreat**

The Partnership retreat was rescheduled for July 31. It will be a teambuilding day for Voting Partners and Alternates and the Advisory Council officers.

### **Public Comment**

Brad Swing, City of Boston-Department of Environmental Services, announced a public meeting to present the Draft Long Island Limited Public Access Master Plan. The meeting will be held Monday, June 24 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the University of Massachusetts, Healey Library, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor.

The Boston Harbor Islands Biodiversity Seminar will be held on May 30 at MIT. There will also be events for the public on June 1 and 2.

Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, voiced concern about volunteers being the only park presence on Georges Island due to the lack of ranger staffing. Karen O'Donnell, Chair of the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, also took issue with volunteers stationed alone. The matter will be addressed by the state agencies.

Karen announced that Adaela McLaughlin received a grant for the revegetation project.

Kelly Fellner introduced the NPS seasonal ranger staff.

### **Advisory Council**

Pat Morss reported that the May 8 meeting of the council was a well attended discussion of how the council can become active promoting the islands. The council is considering working with a facilitator to lead them through a process to work with each other, developing goals and a work plan. The topic of interacting formally with the Partnership was also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.