

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
September 17, 2002, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Claudia Smith-Reid and Edith Andrews, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Commander Sam Neill, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Peter Lewenberg, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); George Price, National Park Service (NPS); Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT)

Maynard Goldman, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from July 16, 2002

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

Planning Committee

Jim Doolin reported that there was a Partnership retreat held on Thompson Island on July 31. It was a day of teambuilding and an opportunity to have general conversations about some of the challenges ahead. A specific concept that the group felt warranted further discussion was a more focused approach to implementing major new initiatives in the Park. Jim made a motion that the Partnership adopt the concept outlined in the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership Strategic Timeline Concept including the focus on Georges Island, Deer Island, Long Island, Peddocks Island and Spectacle Island. The priorities do not represent all of the work of the Partners; rather they highlight islands for special cooperative emphasis by the Partnership as a whole. The Partners discussed the motion. Greg Ketchen, Chair of the Advisory Council, added that although the council did not vote on the matter, it was discussed at the last meeting, and there was general support of the concept. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance, gave a quick background of the work of the Partnership's sub-committee for renewable energy and design. She said that there has been a generous offer by the Town of Hull to work with the Partnership to explore wind power opportunities. Opportunities could be as direct as low-cost electrical supply from Hull, produced by the existing wind turbine, to investment in additional wind turbines, either landside or on island, which would meet all Partnership criteria and applicable permits, to produce electricity using renewable technology. Such a project could be a cost saving and a potential revenue stream and provide significant public educational opportunities related to base park themes/values.

Kathy made a motion that the Partnership support the continued exploration of the wind energy partnership with the Town of Hull for mutually beneficial opportunities that meet Partnership criteria and are consistent with the General Management Plan. Further, the Partnership encourages the Island Alliance to explore specific projects with the Town of Hull, which may not directly involve island property but could benefit the islands with

production of renewable energy and provide a revenue stream to support the park. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Finance Committee

George Price announced that Lauren Downing, NPS Finance Officer, was moving on and that they were working to fill the position. He reported that at the last meeting of the Finance committee, the technical sub-committee gave a status and there were still a number of reports that were due from the Partners before the fall visit to the congressional delegation in Washington. He announced three projects that are moving ahead with funding from the NPS: Georges Island safety railing and walkway project, dock and pier repair work on DEM islands, and an erosion, wave and wake study.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg reported that the Marketing Committee met and reviewed the marketing and public relations from the past season. The park was the recipient of an enormous amount of very good press this year, both in quantity and quality. Much of this success was attributed to Jeremy Crockford, a public relations specialist hired by Island Alliance. It was hoped to keep him on a small retainer over the winter, and use his services next year, but marketing dollars continue to be a challenge to raise.

Peter said that the graphic imaging initiative was also moving forward. He presented a poster with the new logo and island images. The poster was first unveiled at the Island Alliance's Art Auction and was very well received. Partners and Advisory Council members will receive a free poster, and it will be on sale as retail merchandise through the Island Alliance.

Advisory Council

Greg Ketchen, Advisory Council Chair, reported that the September meeting of the council was very well attended and had very good representation from the Partnership. There were presentations given about the Partnership retreat, the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Revegetation Project, and the Predevelopment of Renewables. The council continued work on finalizing nominations for empty seats. Council members also discussed their observations of the season's operations. They are still waiting to hear if they will be approved for funding for public outreach initiative.

Public Comment

Edith Andrews reported that the memorials project on Deer Island is moving forward. She reported that they are interviewing the final four artists for the Native American memorial and are excited about the high quality of their work. Claudia Smith Reid said that the MWRA is working on a newsletter to announce and explain the Irish and Native American memorials project. They expect the next round of funding requests for actual construction to go out in March 2003.

Bill Green announced the Spectacle Island irrigation pipe removal project. Aluminum pipes unneeded by the state and city will be donated to a farming project in the Merrimack Valley supporting Cambodian immigrants.

Edith announced that New Bedford NHP is debuting a new film at the museum about the many peoples involved in the whaling industry. Her son appears in the film.

Carol Fithian, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that she volunteered at Deer Island this year and was very impressed with the way that the grounds are shaping up.

Carol stated serious concerns about the lack of staff on the state owned islands. She said that volunteers continue to be put in very compromising situations because they are the only uniformed personnel on the islands on many days. She wanted the Partnership to be aware that there have been many safety concerns over the season. She relayed a story about an injury on Lovells Island where there was no one around to give prompt and proper first aid. She also stated that she was in touch with 4 or 5 groups from corporations that were willing to do work projects this year and because of the lack of staff, had to be turned down.

Nancy Martin, Boat Trip Coordinator for the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, asked if policies had changed. She noted that last spring, the Friends were not allowed to book trips to Peddocks Island without an MDC staff member present and now it seemed that the general public is allowed on the island with no staff.

Sam Overton Bussell responded to the staffing issue. She said that although it was preferred to have a staff person on island, there were limited resources this year. She said that there were the budget constraints but also things had changed drastically with the DEM/MDC relationship this year that also had an effect. Peter Lewenberg said that the island managers came to the decision to keep the islands open and available to the public this year, instead of closing them outright. He said that the public was notified when going to an unsupervised island before going there. George Price said that the staffing situation will be discussed further over the winter in preparation for next spring.

Mary Corcoran, Advisory Council Vice-Chair, handed out the newsletter for the Massachusetts Association of Science Supervisors. It contained two articles about the park.

The passing of Justine Liff was acknowledged. Justine was the Parks Commissioner of Boston. She was a supporter of the park and the Partnership. There will be a public memorial services held on October 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.