

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership Meeting Minutes**  
**Department of Environmental Management**  
**251 Causeway, Atrium, Boston,**  
**November 19, 2002, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Claudia Smith-Reid, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance (IA); George Price, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) representing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Jim Scully for George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

George Price Acting Chair, called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum present; the approval of minutes from the October 8 meeting was tabled.

**Finance Committee**

George Price said that the Finance Committee's focus has been to prepare documents for the yearly meeting with congressional staff in Washington, DC. George reported that he, Peter Lewenberg, Kathy Abbott, Greg Ketchen (Chair of the Advisory Council) and Virginia Mayer (Director of the City of Boston's Washington Office) met with congressional staff on November 7. There had been a great deal of turnover in congressional staff, so they started the meeting with a slideshow orientation to the park and partnership. They later discussed the financing of the park. George said that it was a very productive meeting, and that they received good feedback.

George introduced Soctt Harrison as the new Finance Officer for the Project Office.

George also reported that he and Captain Dan May, United States Coast Guard, gave a presentation to the NPS Development Advisory Board about a permanent dock fix for Little Brewster. They were given the approval for NPS funding for the \$960k project.

The Georges Island Safety Railing and Walkway project funded by NPS is also moving forward.

George announced that the NPS received four electric vehicles from a National Park Foundation program supported by The Ford Motor Company. These vehicles, which represent a \$30k donation, will be passed on to Thompson Island. The grant actually provided for twelve vehicles for the park; it was originally hoped that MDC and DEM would receive them, but the state was not able to meet all of the requirements of Ford.

**Water Transportation**

Peter Lewenberg reported that the Water Transportation subcommittee was working on reconfiguring the state's water transportation contract for the Partnership's use. The Partnership is now responsible for the water transportation contract, with Island Alliance acting as its agent. It is hoped that the RFP will be issued soon, a pre-bid meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-December.

### **Spectacle Island**

Peter Lewenberg reported that the docking and rampways are complete on Spectacle Island. He said that DEM continues to work with the Central Artery on the construction of the visitor center. The management group continues to plan for the displays inside for the visitor center and for educational programming. He said that they remain hopeful for a soft opening of Spectacle Island in late summer of 2003 and a full opening in spring of 2004.

### **Water Resources Management**

Bruce Jacobson reminded all that comments were due on the Water Resources Scoping Report by November 30. So far, he has only heard from Darryl Forgione, DEM.

Bruce reported that the intertidal researchers have prepared an intertidal biotic overview and assessment of the park that is referenced in the water scoping report. Rich Bell, New England Aquarium, is the field researcher and is working with Robert Buchsbaum of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Charlie Roman, NPS. The written report, which will be forwarded to the Partners, includes a summary of management issues and recommendations for intertidal habitats. Rich Bell will make a presentation to the Partners at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Mary Corcoran said that she spoke with a few teachers that commented on the wonderful time they had on the November 9<sup>th</sup> boat trip organized by NPS. Kelly Fellner said that over 300 people showed up for the free Discovery Cruise in honor of Veteran's Day. She said that Boston Public School teachers received invitations to the cruise when they received the CD version of the park educational resource guide. Many teachers also received a follow-up email.

Peter Lewenberg said the park is planning to join a spring seaport festival scheduled for May 31 (rain date June 1) by coordinating the opening celebration of the park for that weekend. Many organizations are already involved and it should be a substantial event ending with a fireworks display. He invited all to direct ideas about the event to him.

The next meeting will be held at Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 PM.