

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
December 17, 2002, 3:00 PM – 4:40 PM**

PRESENT: Joe Ferrino, Claudia Smith-Reid, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Commander Sam Neill, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

Linda Haar, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from October 8, 2002 and November 19, 2002

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of October 8 and November 19, 2002.

The motion was approved.

Island Alliance

Kathy Abbott, President, reported that Island Alliance received a total of \$6.6M in behalf of the park in 2002. This figure includes \$5.3M from a portion of the harbor gas pipeline project mitigation settlement, which will be dedicated to improvements on Peddocks Island.

Kathy gave the following updates:

- This was the first year that Boston Harbor Islands Discovery Cruises were conducted jointly with NPS, Boston Harbor Cruises and the Museum of Science. These lunchtime boat tours were very successful. A portion of the ticket proceeds benefits the park .
- The park Youth Corps project was expanded to a year-round program and Island Alliance is actively seeking new funding to expand it this coming year in cooperation with island owners.
- The Island Curriculum Project continues to be a priority. An intern of Island Alliance is actively working with area teachers and several new grant applications are in process.
- Island Alliance corporate membership has increased. The Board of Directors has grown, with an additional four members added at November's Board Meeting. The Alliance is also working to increase Trusteeship.
- The roof repair project on Peddocks is moving forward in cooperation with the Metropolitan District Commission.
- Island Alliance continues to work with the City of Boston and DEM on plans to open Spectacle Island to the public. There were several attempts to raise money for island

signs to match the \$75k designated from EOE. Corporate and foundation funders seemed to indicate interest only if they could put their brand on it.

Spectacle Island Update

Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, reported that the construction has resumed on the visitor services building. The targeted completion date is now mid-summer 2003.

Peter stated that city and state are working to complete the operation and infrastructure plan for Spectacle but it is a challenge because of the state budget situation. He said the Partners support of the project will be critical to its success.

Water Resources Scoping Report and Intertidal Assessment

Bruce Jacobson, National Park Service, thanked the Partnership agencies for submitting comments on the draft water resources scoping report during the comment period that concluded November 30. Only minor revisions were needed to the draft, which demonstrated the solid efforts of everyone involved. He reminded all that the purpose of the report is to identify and understand water-related issues relevant to the management of the national park area. It provides a summary of the enormous amount of information currently available on water resource issues.

Bruce introduced Rich Bell, researcher with the New England Aquarium, who gave a presentation on the findings of the Boston Harbor Islands Intertidal Overview and Biotic Assessment. Rich stated that the study's objectives were to perform an intertidal survey, create a species list on each island, map each island individually, compile the information into a report, and recommend ideas for the future. He stated that very detailed maps of the intertidal zone area and habitat were created for 20 islands. See attached summary for a description of the overview and the study recommendations.

Bruce reminded the Partners that the Water Resources Scoping report recommendations included the intertidal study recommendations. The Partners discussed. There was a motion made to accept the Boston Harbor Islands Water Resources Scoping Report, including the Boston Harbor Islands Intertidal Biotic Overview and Assessment, and adopt the recommendations for action. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Planning Committee

Linda Haar reported that the Planning Committee continues to work on the committee's role and function statement. It will be presented at the January meeting of the Partnership.

Linda said that the Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design subcommittee led by Bill Green continues to be very active this year. The committee is working on several projects, including exploring power solutions for Peddocks and Georges islands. They continue monitoring the progress of the Predevelopment of Renewables in the park, a project funded through Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust. Kathy Abbott stated

how this is a model sub-committee because they have successfully incorporated the assistance of experts outside of the individual Partnership agencies.

Visitor Tracking System

George Price stated that having a visitor statistic or tracking system is crucial to the park. He explained that the objective is to obtain accurate data and create a system that is useable to everyone, a complex task when the park has many different owners and methods of operating. He gave a quick background of work the Operations Committee had previously done towards creating a visitor tracking system. This year, Ricardo Montiero, an intern of Island Alliance, took on the task and picked up on previous efforts of the Operations Committee to design a visitor counting system.

George reported that a draft Recommended Visitor Tracking and Reporting Instructions has been under the review of the Operations Committee since October. A summary was distributed.

Ricardo described the protocol that was used to create the draft and summarized the recommended procedures for collecting, counting and reporting public visitation. It is a system based on accepted counting practices and is in use at other National Parks with similar resources.

The Partners discussed the topic and had many questions and suggestions. The committee will discuss revisions to the document based on the comments received today. The committee plans to recommend the system for approval at the January Partnership meeting. If anyone has specific comments, please contact Ricardo directly. He can be reached at 617-223-8686 or by email at dricardo_monteiro@yahoo.com. Peter Webber requested that a copy of the document be sent to his office by email.

Advisory Council

Claudia Smith Reid reported that the council has begun the planning process for a community outreach plan. They are working with consultants from the Interactive Institute for Social Change. The next workshop will be held February 5 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the New England Aquarium Conference Center. All are encouraged to attend and offer their ideas on how to get the public to visit and become involved in the park.

Public Comments

Pat Morss announced that he collected over 1,200 color slides of the islands this summer and they are available for promotional use. He will exhibit his photography at the Boston Society of Architects offices from January 6 through February 21. He invited all to a reception on January 14, 2003, at 52 Broad Street. In April, the exhibit will move to South Station.

Kelly Fellner announced three winter events: a Discovery Cruise in January; a cruise with a tour of Georges in February; and a cruise with a tour of Peddocks in March.

George Price gave an open invitation to a holiday party at the Project Office that will be held after the meeting.

Steve Landrigan commended the efforts of the many individuals who are involved in the park that brought enjoyment to the citizens of Boston with the Boston Harbor Islands. He offered a suggestion to remember the foreign visitor when planning for the park signs and programming. Based on his observations during his summer employment with NPS, he felt the number of foreign visitors was quite high.

Karen O'Donnell suggested that a presentation be made to Governor-elect Romney to acquaint him with the park and the islands.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.