

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,  
March 18, 2003, 3:00 PM – 4:55 PM**

**Attendees:** Edith Andrews and Claudia Smith Reid-Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Brad Swing for Cathy Douglas Stone-City of Boston, Department of Environmental Service; Peter Webber and Peter Lewenberg-Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Maynard Goldman and Kathy Abbot-Island Alliance; Jim Doolin-Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder-Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Samantha Overton Bussell-Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Terry Savage and George Price-National Park Service (NPS); George Armstrong-Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center(TIOBEC); Capt. Dan May-United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Peter Webber, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order; there was a quorum present.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 21, 2003. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Nominating Committee**

George Price reported that the Nominating Committee met and recommends Ellen Roy Herzfelder for Chair. The Partners discussed. Peter Webber made a motion to elect Secretary Herzfelder as Chair of the Partnership. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

George also reported that the Nominating Committee recommends no action for the position of Vice Chair. The Partners agreed.

The group discussed future meeting dates. It was agreed that the Partnership meetings will stay on the current schedule.

**Planning Committee**

Jim Doolin reported on the outcomes of the retreat discussions. He explained that these discussions focused on how to restructure the Partnership meetings now that the park is moving out of the planning phase into the implementation phase.

It was the recommendation to encourage more dialogue between Partners at the meetings. It was thought that this could be facilitated by changing the orientation of the head table to a circle shape and by including key staff people.

It was also the recommendation to change the focus of the meetings. Committee reports had been the focus of the meetings during the planning phase. Committees will remain vital places where much of the detailed work of the Partnership will be done. It will continue to be important that Partners attend committee meetings, or send key staff to participate. As always, it will be incumbent on Partners to follow up with staff members and stay informed on key issues.

It was suggested that meetings become more focused on collaborative efforts of the Partners that can benefit the park as a whole. It was recommended that a “five-island” focus would facilitate this process. Five islands were chosen for the current focus: Deer, Georges, Long, Peddocks and Spectacle. This is consistent with prior work, specifically the park general management plan. The Partnership will of course remain concerned with park-wide issues, and individual island owners will continue to be responsible for their own islands, but this five-island focus could help prioritize joint projects. Two of the overarching goals of the Partnership are resource protection and visitor satisfaction. Each month the five islands will show on the agenda with these subcategories listed to keep the priorities in mind, but only will be discussed if there is a current issue to inform or address. The islands and topics discussed will be highlighted on the agenda. Also each month, there will be an agenda item for park-wide issues. Bruce Jacobson, NPS distributed a discussion draft regarding priorities for the Boston Harbor Islands.

The Partners discussed the new concept for the meetings. After a few concerns were addressed, there was general agreement to begin using the new format as a way to focus efforts. It was recommended to hold a joint workshop of all the park’s committees to discuss the five-islands and the overarching topics.

### **Georges Island**

George Price reported that the safety railway project on Georges Island is moving forward with the cooperation of the MDC. The project is funded by NPS through a cooperative agreement with the Island Alliance. The consultants from BH+A are ready to put the job out to bid.

### **Peddocks Island**

The hazardous materials assessment of the guardhouse is complete and the remediation efforts are moving forward. BH+A will be providing a scope of service to be bid this spring.

Kathy Abbott reported that Island Alliance is planning to hire Spaulding and Syle as the management consultant for Peddocks Island under a capped fee structure. She said that they interviewed a variety of professionals over a three-month period and the project committee feels very fortunate to get a firm with such extensive expertise at such a reduced rate. Spaulding and Syle will be paid for direct costs only and will not profit from the arrangement. Kathy suggested that the next Partnership meeting could focus on Peddocks Island and the Spaulding and Syle involvement.

### **Long Island**

Brad Swing reported that the city will soon formally present the Long Island Limited Public Access Plan for Long Island which was completed last September and signed into law last month. The city has received a \$250k appropriation for the construction drawing phase of the pier.

### **Spectacle Island**

Kathy Abbott announced that Island Alliance has received the funds from the City of Boston for their portion of the funding commitment to hire a Project Manager for Spectacle Island. Island Alliance has hired a half-time Project Manager, Mau

Colbert. She has a strong engineering and business background as well as experience and passion for sustainable design, “green” technologies, and environmental education.

### **Water Transportation**

Peter Lewenberg reported that the details of water transportation contract are yet to be worked out by the water transportation subcommittee. He reminded all that the current contract will be with Boston Harbor Cruises (BHC) for a one-year term for ferry service only. Significant changes from last year include: the water shuttle is not included in this contract this year; departures from Hingham are reduced to weekends only; and BHC has dropped its adult fee back to \$8. The subcommittee has yet to find a complete solution for the water shuttle system for the season. DEM recently has acquired a vessel that can offer some service. The committee is also pursuing potential opportunities with other boat operators; but there is currently no funding available. One option that could be explored is to begin charging a small fee for the shuttle service. Peter said that in order to fund an adequate free shuttle system, it would cost \$60k and they are requesting help from the Partnership.

Richie Sutherland, Captain of the Irene, stated that the fee basis has been tried in the past, and was unsuccessful. It was a hardship for groups (especially school groups) and the average visitor was not willing to pay more. There was a significant increase in ridership when the system is free. The Partners discussed. They were in support of keeping the shuttle system free. Peter Webber offered \$10k toward the shuttle system from the state. Island Alliance and NPS also indicated that they might be able to offer some support.

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI), reminded all that last year, because of the limited boat service, visitors had a hard time getting to even one other island in a day, virtually impossible to get to more. Suzanne Gall Marsh, FBHI, stated that if there are limited boats and limited staff, perhaps the shuttles should only go to staffed islands. She reminded all that there were many issues raised from last year about sending visitors to unstaffed islands.

### **Finance Committee**

The due date for Partners to submit financial reports from 2002 has been extended to April 30.

### **Visitor Profile**

Peter Lewenberg reminded all that the Visitor Statistics Collection and Reporting System was adopted at the January meeting of the Partnership. He gave a PowerPoint presentation that described the visitor statistics for 2002. The presentation is available from the Project Office.

### **New Business**

George Price announced the acquisition of two more 41’ USCG excess patrol vessels. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> boat transferred through the NPS. One of the vessels will be transferred to the Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit, and the other to the City of Quincy Police, Harbor Master. George gave thanks to Captain May and Tony Conte, Department of Interior Solicitor, for all of their efforts and

credited Corinne from William Delahunt's Office for success obtaining these vessels that will support the law enforcement responsibilities of visitor safety and resource protection of the park.

Edith Andrews announced a reception for the chosen sculptor for the King Phillip's War Memorial on Deer Island. She stated that they are especially proud of the initiative on Deer Island, as it was part of the Native American interest group's mission statement to have a memorial in place. She invited all to attend the reception to learn more about the plans and meet the artist.

George Price announced a lecture series that will feature the islands at the Old South Meeting House.

Alex Hall, MDC, announced the winter discovery cruise to Peddocks Island on Saturday, March 29.

### **Advisory Council**

Claudia Smith Reid reported that the Advisory Council held its annual meeting on March 5, and again had very good attendance. They had a terrific presentation from Bob Michelson, an underwater photographer, which showed the dramatic changes to a cleaner harbor over the past 15 years. The council also nominated new members and gave a presentation about the progress of the community outreach program.

### **Public Comments**

Mary Corcoran, Advisory Council Vice-Chair, stated that she attended a science and math seminar where Johanna Mendillo was there talking about the islands. She said that the teachers were very receptive. She also announced that there has been progress getting ferry service from Winthrop to Boston, and the next step is to include the islands.

Steve Marcus announced that the Friends cruises are set for the year and brochures are available.

Nancy Martin asked about ADA accessible piers on the islands. She was aware that the pier on Long Island will be ADA accessible, and wondered the if it was a priority to upgrade the other island piers.

The next meeting will be held April 15, 2003 at Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.