

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
April 15, 2003, 3:00 PM – 4:26 PM**

Attendees: Edith Andrews, Joe Ferrino and Suzanne Gall Marsh-Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Peter Webber and Peter Lewenberg-Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Kathy Abbott, Maynard Goldman-Island Alliance; Jim Doolin-Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Fred Laskey and Marianne Connolly-Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Samantha Overton Bussell and Karl Pastore-Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Terry Savage and George Price-National Park Service (NPS); George Armstrong and Jim Scully-Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center(TIOBEC); Capt. Dan May-United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Maynard Goldman, 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 March 18, 2003. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Peddocks Island

At the March Partnership meeting, Island Alliance announced that they were in the process of developing an agreement for Spaulding & Syle to provide project management services for Phase I of the Peddocks Island eco-retreat and family camp project. A request was made at that time for more background information.

Doug gave an overview of the process Island Alliance used in their planning to date. The goal was to obtain the best project manager for the least cost. He said that the decision was made after a great deal of research and deliberation. Although no formal request for proposals was sent out, meetings were held with a broad range of professionals in the field to introduce them to the project as well as to gather information from them.

Island Alliance received a proposal from Spaulding & Syle and one other unsolicited bid. Spaulding & Syle had expressed early interest in the project because of the potential for public benefit. Their proposal indicated they would provide services at cost, not applying any profit or overhead, and offered a cap on their total fee of \$200k over the lifetime of the project. The Island Alliance Board discussed concerns such as the potential for actual or perceived conflict of interests. With the team's outstanding qualifications, the firm's broad set of available resources and expertise, the at-cost fee basis, and the cap on the total fee, the Board felt comfortable pursuing the proposal. The MDC was also involved in the process and gave their approval to proceed. Sam Overton Bussell explained that this was seen as more of a staffing issue and that the state did not require this to be formally bid. The larger dollar contracts involved in Phase I will all be publicly bid. The Partners discussed.

Doug introduced the proposed team from Spaulding & Syle: Dan O'Connell, Partner in Charge (who has experience restoring Endicott Period forts), Hilary Thomas, Project Manager, and Meg Hazen, Assistant Project Manager. The scope of Phase I includes basic infrastructure and visitor center improvements.

Doug reported that an Island Alliance oversight committee was being developed to monitor the project and that a process for advisory committee involvement will be determined. Island Alliance will continue to report to the Partnership on an as needed basis.

Doug also reported that the Island Alliance has made it to the finals of the Yale School of Management's National Business Plan Competition.

Water Transportation

Peter Lewenberg reported that some money was raised since the last meeting to fund the inter-island water shuttle. They are still short of almost 10k of the needed funds and are still negotiating about the specifics of the contract. Discussions have started in good faith for a spring schedule.

Natural Resources

Jim Doolin reported that the Planning Committee met on April 8, and received an overview of the current understanding of plants in the park and the role of native plants in park management. George Price added that the meeting was a kick off to the start of a Natural Resource Management Plan for the Park. Sheila Colwell, NPS Senior Natural Resource Program Manager, will lead the effort.

The Boston Harbor Islands Science Symposium will be held on October 7 at the Science Museum. A call for research papers has been issued.

New Business

Congratulations to the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands! The Friends have received the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for the Volunteers in Parks category. They competed against hundreds of volunteer groups from across the nation and came out number one. The award will be presented in Washington DC.

George Price announced an island clean up on May 3. Volunteers will go to Georges, Grape, Rainsford and Thompson islands. The park opening celebration, Island Jamboree on Thompson Island, will be held on May 31 in conjunction with the Seaport Festival.

The Boston Harbor Islands are the topic of a lecture series at the Old South Meeting House. The lectures will be held every Wednesday in May.

Sherman Morss, Jr. has a photography exhibit on display in South Station. It has been generating a good deal of interest in the park. A park information table has been set up and is staffed by park personnel during commuter hours.

Kathy Abbott introduced Jennifer Whitman, Island Alliance Events and Marketing Manager.

A Midsummer Lights Relay on Deer Island is planned for Saturday, June 21. All partners were encouraged to form a team.

A request was made for a spring Partnership orientation tour to Peddocks Island. George Price said that the current plan is to arrange an orientation tour to Spectacle or Deer in the spring or summer since they are the new islands that are coming on-line. A Peddocks trip could be arranged later in the season.

Advisory Council

The Advisory council continues work on the community outreach program. The next study session will be held on April 30 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Project Office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd floor conference room. The next quarterly meeting will be held on June 4, at New England Aquarium Conference Center, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

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