

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
October 21, 2003, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Attendees: Claudia Smith-Reid—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Andrea d’Amato and Cathy Douglas Stone—City of Boston, Office of Environmental Services; Maynard Goldman—Island Alliance; Samantha Overton Bussell, Todd Frederick, Peter Lewenberg, Peter Webber—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage and George Price—National Park Service (NPS); Jim Scully—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Captain Dan May—United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Cathy Douglas Stone, Vice-Chair, called the sixty-fourth meeting of the Partnership to order; there was a quorum present.

There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 16, 2003. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Georges Island

Plumbing work is underway on Georges. The work includes repairs to the water line, a new hydrant and drinking fountain and getting the flush toilets working. A new septic field is also being constructed. The DCR has requested assistance in contacting Duke Energy to follow up on the offer to take a look at the off-island underwater line.

Pedlocks Island

Doug Welch reported that the Pedlocks Island Phase One project management team was chosen. Spaulding & Slye Colliers was awarded the contract. The team from Spaulding & Syle has outstanding qualifications, a broad set of available resources as well as expertise, and experience restoring Endicott Period forts.

There will be regular meetings with Island Alliance, DCR, NPS and Spaulding & Syle during Phase I. An advisory oversight committee has been set up that consists of the Island Alliance economic development committee and members of the Partnership (Jim Doolin, Sam Overton, and Linda Haar) to oversee the process. Currently, the advisory oversight committee is reviewing a request for proposals for engineering and architectural teams developed by Spaulding and Syle. There will also be regular progress reports given to the Partnership and Advisory Council with the opportunity to give input on the process.

Doug reported that roof repair work has been completed on 7 roofs on Pedlocks Island. He also said that there is a field trip scheduled for assessing the photovoltaics array currently on the island.

Science Symposium

George Price reported that the Science Symposium was a great success. The Symposium was one of a series of related events that gave an opportunity to explore our scientific understanding of islands. The event kick-off was a reception at Cathy Stone’s

house Friday night. The Massachusetts Marine Educator's Conference was held on Saturday, field trips to the islands were held on Sunday, and a "vital signs" workshop for scientists was held on Monday. The Science Symposium was held on Tuesday and events culminated with a plenary address by E.O. Wilson. There was a great deal of information shared, and discussion began about how to link research with education projects.

Kelly Fellner reported that the park provided scholarships and stipends for teachers to attend the conference and symposium, through a grant received by Island Alliance. The teachers were very excited about the conference and the symposium and were amazed that they got so much info to bring back to the classroom.

Education Update

Kelly Fellner announced that the Duke Energy Company recently pledged a contribution to the park of \$50,000 for two years for education programs. This money will support boat and bus transportation and defray the cost of substitute teachers and trained staff to present programs on the islands.

Kelly reported that the Harbor Connections program has expanded, the program at Odyssey High school continues, and the BEAN program continues to expand. The *Abigail* has been a great help to the education programs; it has expanded the range and is a faster boat, so that school groups have had more time on the islands. She announced the next Education Committee meeting will be held on November 5.

Finance Committee

Cathy Douglas Stone encouraged Partners to assign an agency representative to the finance committee. There is a need for more technical support people that can serve on the technical subcommittee that currently has just one member, Scott Harrison from NPS. They are looking for at least three more staff people. Peter Webber offered the help of Doug Leab, who had been the DCR representative. Peter said that even though Doug has changed positions, he can stay on the subcommittee and help train a new person from DCR.

Island Alliance

Maynard said that the annual awards dinner was a wonderful event. Two hundred and eighty people attended.

He announced that Doug Welch is serving as interim Executive Director of Island Alliance. They have created an office of the President (Maynard Goldman, Dick Cross, and Doug McGarrah) and are actively searching for a new President. They hope to identify someone for the position by the beginning of March.

Doug Welch gave a business report. The Island Alliance has 7 lines of business: the Little Brewster program, which is a phenomenal effort with 9 partners; retail, which consists of pushcart on Long Wharf and store at Fan Pier; Discovery Cruises in cooperation with NPS, Museum of Science and Boston Harbor Cruises; moorings with the vendor Island Moorings; catering on Georges Island with George Silva; scavenger hunts with Scaventures; and a kayak program with Charles River Kayak. These programs netted \$20,000 for the 2003 season. The retail program broke about even, which is an

improvement. It is felt that it is still worthwhile to do retail because it is important for the marketing effort.

Doug reported that the Little Brewster program fared well despite several trips that were cancelled due to bad weather or low attendance. Sally Snowman was made the official USCG civilian light keeper.

New Business

Peter Lewenberg reported that a request for proposals for water transportation has been sent out. He also stated that the marketing committee is in the process of changing its focus to events, he will present a goals and objectives draft and propose a committee name change at the next meeting.

There was discussion about the new Maritime Security Initiatives and the facilities security assessment requirement. There were questions if this new law had implications for the park. Dan May said that the requirements are mostly geared to large transportation facilities, but that he could arrange a meeting between the island owners and the Coast Guard to discuss the issue. Sam Overton suggested that the Partnership get a statement prepared, so that it would be on record.

Advisory Council

Mary Corcoran announced the next meeting of the Advisory Council. It will be held on December 3, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. They are still waiting to hear if the grant submission for the Outreach Program has been approved.

Mary congratulated every one involved in the Massachusetts Marine Educators Conference and Science Symposium. She said that the teachers were really enthusiastic coming away from it.

The next meeting of science teachers will be held November 5–7. There will be a table with information about the islands at the meeting. Mary announced the free Discovery Cruise on November 8. There will be invitations sent out to educators.

Public Comments

Suzanne Gall Marsh said that the USCG has started repair work on Nixes Mate. The Friends are still working to get Nixes Mate on the register of historic places. She announced the Legends and Lore Cruise on Saturday.

Suzanne also reported that the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands had a very successful trip to Peddocks Island. Leslie Silvia, daughter of longtime Peddocks resident Matilda Bies Silvia who wrote *"Once Upon an Island"*, was on board for book signings.

Future Meeting Dates

The November 18 meeting of the Partnership was cancelled. It was suggested that all attend a central artery meeting (same time and place) about Spectacle Island and the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The next meeting will be held on December 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.