

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
December 16, 2003, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Joe Ferrino—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Cathy Douglas Stone—City of Boston, Department of Environmental Services; Kathy Abbott, Samantha Overton Bussell, and Peter Lewenberg—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Doug Welch (for Maynard Goldman)—Island Alliance; Jim Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority(MASSPORT); Marianne Connolly (for Fred Laskey)—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); George Price—National Park Service (NPS); Jim Scully—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Capt. Dan May—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

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

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

Peddocks Island

Doug Welch reported that repair work was recently completed on seven roofs on Peddocks Island. A final report will be prepared, and it will be available to the Partnership at the next meeting. This completed roof repair will assist in the process of obtaining funding for more building improvements.

Doug also said that a pre-bid meeting for architect and engineering services was held on November 12 and participants got an opportunity to visit Peddocks on November 24. The bids were due on December 3; they have received an excellent response. Interviews with the advisory committee are scheduled.

Spectacle Island

Peter Lewenberg reported that construction is almost complete on the visitor center on Spectacle Island; they are down to the final punch list. The center has been mothballed until spring, when work can be finished. There will be a transitional overlap period when the Central Artery is completing the project and the owners will also be on-island preparing for the targeted opening date of June 26. They are moving ahead with plans for the opening, but there are still critical funding issues that have yet to be resolved.

General Management Plan

Jim Doolin announced that the final general management plan (GMP) and the final environmental impact statement (EIS) were available. They are available on the web or as hard copy. Jim said that these documents are a result of many years of work, and that they reflect the results of the public comment period.

Bruce Jacobson explained how to read the documents along with the errata sheet. He said that most of the comments received were of seven types: that the information about the island resources was very general; that it was not clear how the plan will be funded; for or against specific gateways; that natural resources should be protected; that there not be a dock placed at Worlds End; that the plan was insensitive to Native American issues and did not accurately represent Native American history; and questions about who the park authorities are.

Bruce stated that all of the comments that were received are printed in the EIS, and if the comment initiated a change in the plan, a notation was made next to the letter. Bruce said that the public comments did not create changes to the alternatives or to the analysis of impacts.

Bruce explained that the documents are available to the public for 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Publication was expected to be last Friday, but was delayed until Friday, December 19 because of storm closures. Following this 30-day period, it will go to the Regional Director of the National Park Service for approval. Her decision is expected within 30 days of receipt. Bruce said that a MEPA notice will also be prepared.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, said that although he has not read the final document, he took exception to the statement that public comment did not effect impact and analysis. It was his opinion that since the 23 tribal meetings he recommended never took place and that there is not a policy protecting burial grounds in the GMP, the statement is inaccurate and the GMP is illegal.

George Price said that all city, state and federal laws protecting grave sites apply to the park. Native American consultation meetings about the GMP were held and that consultations will continue in areas of specific concern. George said that the completion of this plan represents a tremendous accomplishment and he thanked Barbara Mackey and Bruce Jacobson for the remarkable job they have done.

Education Committee

Kelly Fellner, NPS, gave an update on the education committee's activities. She presented an update of the committee Role and Function Statement. She said that they were taking a look at interpretive programming, and how to use the website to its fullest potential. She reported that three subcommittees have been formed: program information & access; curriculum-based programs & experiential learning; and interpretation & program staff development.

Kelly reported that funding was received through a Civil War initiative. The plans for the money include the development of Civil War programs and curriculum as well as obtaining a replica Rodman cannon for Georges Island.

Cathy Douglas Stone asked about the climate change backpack she had heard about. Kelly explained that this is an education kit produced by the Environmental Education Collaborative, which can be really useful on the islands, especially Spectacle.

Water Transportation

Peter Lewenberg gave an update on the water transportation planning. He said that they are working to develop routes and schedules with Harbor Express. Boston Harbor Cruises has also expressed an interest in participating, talks are continuing with them as well. The water transportation subcommittee will meet again soon; they want to keep the *MV Irene* in the system. Peter said that they would also like to open discussions with Thompson Island and UMASS-Boston about additional routes.

Marketing

Peter presented the marketing committee's goals and objectives for 2004. He requested that the committee's name be changed to the events and marketing committee to reflect their new focus. The Partners approved of the change. Peter stated the rest of the 2004 goals which included: revising and publishing the events brochure; developing a benchmarking program to ensure the effectiveness of the marketing efforts to raise the level of public awareness; and to obtain funding and implement the park's sign program.

Youth Program

Johanna Mendillo, B.E.A.N. Program Manager, said that they have 14 interns available for after school office work beginning in February. She said that she hoped to offer opportunities in more partnership offices this year. There is no cost to the employing agency for the service. Please contact her at (617) 733-4589 with any questions you may have.

Central Artery Parks

Sarah Peskin, NPS, reported on the status of the Central Artery park project on Parcel 14. She said that the good news is that a footprint for a visitor contact station has appeared on preliminary plans in the parcel that was our first choice. However, the bad news is that the footprint is much smaller than desired, and at this size it would not be able to support the functions that would make it economically viable. Sarah asked that Partners send letters of support for the pavilion.

Finance Committee

Cathy Douglas Stone said that the finance committee was working on 2 main issues, financial reporting and legislation. She encouraged all partners to submit their financial statements, some from 2002 are still needed, and the due date for the 2003 information approaches. Cathy said that since the Spectacle Island legislation is expected to pass, it would be a good time to present similar legislation for the park as a whole.

Advisory Council

Greg Ketchen, Chair, announced the annual meeting of the Council will be held on March 3. He said that many members have reached their term limits and will need to

step down for at least a year. This will be the case for all the original members that have held two consecutive three-year terms. They can still remain active as ex-officios, so can still participate. At this annual meeting, the council will also elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair as well as nominate members for the Partnership seats.

Greg said that at the last meeting of the council was a study session on alternative energy. The council worked on a recommendation about wind energy to present to the Partnership. He said that the concept was that the Advisory Council supports the use of alternative energy, but had some concerns about potential impacts to natural resources and visual landscapes and to cultural sites including Native American sites. Greg said that the proposal originally included a line in the outer harbor that windmills should not be considered, but as it came to vote, the members present decided that the recommendation shouldn't be so limiting. Instead, the Council desires to be included in the process as it develops. Gary McCann said that at the meeting, the recommendation did not originally include sensitivity to Native American sites; he thanked the Council and Greg for amending the statement.

Sam Overton Bussell reminded all that careful studies of impacts are part of the planning process. She also said that the planning committee is initiating a study about viewscales.

Public Comment

Sam Sapiel, Penobscot Nation, said that he gave a presentation at the Pequot Museum. He said that true Indian history is important, that Indians need to be in the forefront. People didn't understand Indian things and how the government has treated Indians.

Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the 22nd annual Seafarers expedition to Thompson Island on New Years Day. She announced the upcoming annual meeting on February 8 and a workshop. Steve Marcus announced a panel discussion about energy in the harbor featuring Jack Wiggin from Urban Harbors Institute and a representative from the Duke Energy pipeline project.

George announced the holiday gathering immediately following the meeting.

There was a special presentation of the video program presented at the LA Partnership Conference featuring the Boston Harbor Islands.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.