

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
January 20, 2004, 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM**

Attendees: Edith Andrews—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Linda Haar—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Doug Welch for Maynard Goldman—Island Alliance; Samantha Overton Bussell, and Peter Lewenberg—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage—National Park Service (NPS); Jim Scully—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Cmdr. Sam Neill—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Linda Haar, acting Chair, called the sixty-sixth meeting of the Partnership to order; there was a quorum present.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2003. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Peddocks Island

Doug Welch, Island Alliance, reported that interviews were held for the architects and engineers for phase one of the Peddocks Island project and that the teams were selected. The interviews were held by an advisory committee made up of Partnership representatives from the Island Alliance, DCR and NPS, and project managers from Spaulding & Slye. Island Alliance received five responses for engineering services and four proposals for architectural services. Doug announced that Environmental Partners was selected as the engineering team. He said that Bruner/Cott was awarded the contract for architectural services. Bruner/Cott, led by Henry Moss, has extensive experience in adaptive reuse and preservation projects. The next step will be to hold a meeting with the combined teams.

Doug passed out a copy of the final report from the recent roof repairs on Peddocks Island. This document will hopefully assist in the process of obtaining funding for more building improvements.

Website

Bruce Jacobson, National Park Service, presented the revisions to the Partnership website at BostonIslands.com. There were new graphics added to the site and a new color scheme was developed to match the new logo. There was also a major overhaul of structure underway in addition to the annual maintenance. Bruce invited comments about the website content. He received feedback about the island fact sheets, directions pages, and the importance of answering and posting visitor questions.

Peter Lewenberg reported that the number of hits to the website and the number of users was drastically higher this year, showing that the website is an extremely important element for communication.

Marketing

Peter Lewenberg said that the marketing committee was working on the events brochure for 2004. He reminded all to submit all event information to Jennifer Whitman, Island Alliance, as soon as possible. He encouraged all to submit event information for planning purposes even if all the details have not yet been worked out.

Peter said that Jeremy Crockford, Media Consultant, has continued to help plan for spring, even though his contract from last year is over. They plan to rehire him this spring.

Water Transportation

Peter Lewenberg gave an update on the water transportation planning. He said that the water transportation subcommittee is working to develop routes and schedules with Harbor Express. Talks are continuing with Boston Harbor Cruises as well. They hope to get a comprehensive schedule that includes both Georges and Spectacle islands as hubs. They are also talking with Thompson Island about some routes that could supplement the park's water shuttle system that fit with the island's public access program.

Spectacle Island

Peter Lewenberg reported that the Spectacle Island is scheduled to open on June 26. Construction is wrapping up for the winter, and the transfer from the Central Artery to the owners (DCR and the City of Boston) should take place next spring. They have signed with the University of Massachusetts to manage and maintain the marina. The island owners and the Island Alliance are working to find funding sources for various projects. Sam Overton Bussell announced that the state recently approved \$200k for Spectacle Island improvements.

Central Artery Parks

Sarah Peskin, National Park Service, gave a status report on the harbor park pavilion project on parcel 14 of the Rose Kennedy Greenway. She described the project and the importance of the location. Sarah passed out some artist's renderings of the current concepts for the structure and the associated outdoor spaces. To be economically viable, the pavilion must be of a size to support an information station, a bookstore, restrooms, and a café. This concept was endorsed by the Partnership in July 2003. At the suggestion of the Planning Committee, Sarah requested support letters from all Partnership agencies and offered a sample letter to work from. She said that they have received positive feedback, but that there are many competing ideas.

General Management Plan

Bruce Jacobson reported that a number of letters have been sent to various government officials regarding the general management plan (GMP). He provided copies of these letters, so that the partners would be aware of the recent developments. Bruce explained that in general, the letters state that there are no policies protecting Indian burial grounds in the GMP and that the NPS has refused to work with tribal governments. Some of these letters were from the chief of a federally recognized tribe, Chief Barry Dana, Penobscot Indian Nation. As a response to Chief Dana's request,

the NPS plans to meet with Chief Dana's representative, Sam Sapiel and Gary McCann. Sandy Walter, NPS Deputy Regional Director, has already been in contact with Sam and Gary, and NPS has agreed not to make a final decision on the plan until after that meeting. Bruce stated that the NPS and the Partnership remain committed to protecting burial sites and are legally required to do so under the park legislation as well as under other laws. He added that the NPS and the Partnership have stated and demonstrated commitment to many Native American matters and will continue to support the development of: a Native American cultural center; educational programs; a history project; and the memorial on Deer Island. Tribes that have close association to the park will be consulted on upcoming projects whenever site development is planned.

Edith Andrews clearly stated that Sam Sapiel and Gary McCann do not speak for the Wampanoag Tribe. She said that all tribes that are federally recognized speak for themselves. She requested that she be present when the meeting between the Deputy Regional Director and Sam occurs, and that other tribal representatives should be there as well. She said there were meetings held between tribes and NPS at the North American Indian Center which included Indian representatives from as far away as Wisconsin and Oklahoma. She said that they worked very hard reviewing the GMP. Edith did clarify that she is not saying that Sam is wrong, that he is the Penobscot representative, and is entitled to his own point of view.

Public Comment

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island (MICDI), stated that Bruce gave an accurate summary of the current situation. He stated that he notified the Partnership when they adopted the GMP that the MICDI would return to congress because it is the belief of the MICDI that the plan violates federal law. He related the difficulties he had reaching officials in the 30-day official comment period because it began near the December holidays. Gary stated that he had confidence in the process and that the MICDI's actions would facilitate changes to the GMP and to the NPS consultation process, bringing them into compliance with the law. He said that the federal administration, President Bush, Governor Romney, and Mayor Menino will all be supportive of a process that supports tribal governments and protects Indian burial grounds.

Advisory Council

Mary Corcoran, Vice-chair, invited all to the annual meeting of the Council, which will be held on March 3, at the Children's Museum, from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Mary said that she was invited to speak to the Winthrop selectman's office about alternative energy. Mary announced that Meg Tabasko, MWRA, won an education award.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.