

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
March 16, 2004, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Attendees: Marianne Farrington and Bill Hale—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Cathy Douglas Stone—City of Boston, Department of Environmental Services; Doug Welch for Maynard Goldman—Island Alliance; Peter Lewenberg—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage and George Price—National Park Service (NPS); Capt. Dan May—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Cathy Douglas Stone, Vice Chair, called the sixty-seventh meeting of the Partnership to order.

The minutes of the meeting held on January 20, were approved.

Advisory Council Nominations

Greg Ketchen, Chair of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council, reported on the outcome of the council's annual meeting held March 3, 2004. He reported that many new members were nominated. Greg was re-elected as Chair, and Pat Morss was elected as Vice-Chair. Joe Ferrino and Marianne Farrington were nominated by vote of the committee as Voting Partners. Linda Smith-Mooney and Bill Hale were nominated by vote of the committee as Voting Alternates. The nominations for the entire council were not finalized. At the meeting, two members of the Native American Interest Group objected to the nomination process. George Price is working to resolve.

Peddocks Island

Doug Welch, Island Alliance, announced that a study group on Peddocks Island will be formed through the Advisory Council. Several people signed up for it at the annual meeting.

Doug said that the engineering team is scheduled to meet with the Sustainable Design and Renewable Energy Sub-committee. The engineers are also scheduled for a site trip on Monday.

The Island Alliance is currently working on finding funds for the chapel rehabilitation. They have found a letter from John F. Kennedy written in 1953 that will help support the idea of reuse of the chapel.

A strategic water resource planning meeting was held. The group included members from MWRA and DCR. The group discussed possibilities for Peddocks and the potential to link to the Georges Island water line from Hull.

Spectacle Island

Peter Lewenberg reported that the owners and CA/T Project are nearing the final punch list for security, fire and safety for the visitor center on Spectacle Island. The transfer to the owners should occur in April. The opening is planned for June 26 which is also the beginning of the park's summer season. A grand opening ceremony is to be scheduled.

Water Transportation

Peter Lewenberg said that the park is in the process of completing the water transportation contract with Harbor Express. The planning is moving forward. Harbor Express has submitted schedules. The mainland departure sites will be: Long Wharf, Boston; Logan Airport; Quincy Shipyard; and Pemberton Point, Hull. Harbor Express will also manage the inter-island shuttle. There will be northern and southern water shuttle loops. This year, in an effort to keep the water shuttle free for visitors, a portion of the ferry fee and other revenues from charters and school groups will fund the inter-island system.

Marketing

Peter Lewenberg said that the Marketing Committee was in the final stages of completing the events brochure for 2004. The brochure will be distributed at the end of April along with an insert of the ferry and inter-island schedule. He thanked Jennifer Whitman, Island Alliance, and Martin Beveridge, DCR Graphic Designer, for all their hard work.

Peter reported that the Spectacle Island logo was completed. Ted Wright, the artist supplied the final artwork to park. It is now available for use on brochures and retail products.

George Price drew attention to an editorial piece in the globe by Gerry Studds and Dick Cross.

Planning Committee

Bruce introduced the draft motion regarding an infrastructure project review process. The proposal is for a recognized process for disseminating project information and the opportunity for comment and discussion early on in a project's life. Details about the process were in the meeting packet. The Partners discussed the issue. Terry Savage made a motion to adopt the Boston Harbor Islands park infrastructure review process recommended by the Planning Committee at its meeting on March 9, 2004. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Finance Committee

George Price reported that the technical sub-committee is still gathering information from Partners. A new addition to the team is Seth Thomas from MWRA. Massport also has been providing assistance. George said that they are preparing a report for a Congressional briefing later this month.

The legislation that would allow the Island Alliance to manage Spectacle Island is alive in the House, but still not moving. Without the legislation, Island Alliance can not issue RFP's or arrange for services.

NPS Update

George Price announced that \$2.25M was in this month's Federal Transportation Bill for ADA compliant docks. This will be added to the \$413k NPS already has in cooperative agreements with Island Alliance and DCR. He reported that \$727k for the safety railing/walkway project on Georges and \$25k for a solid waste stream management study was also received.

George also reported that all of the budget news was not good news. Last year the Little Brewster dock funds were shifty to homeland security. The base budget of the Partnership Office was also affected, less by \$30k. There was also a rent issue this year, which lowered available operating funds by an additional \$40k. The park will not be able to hire as many seasonal rangers as it did last year. Terry Savage stated that all NPS parks are affected.

Native American Issues

The NPS is in the process of responding to a letter received from Chief Dana of the Penobscot Nation. A meeting was held between the NPS Deputy Regional Director and Chief Dana's representatives (Sam Sapiel and Gary McCann) at Chief Dana's request. Regional NPS employees also met with other Native American tribal representatives. Topics such as the general management plan and Advisory Council membership were discussed.

A briefing is scheduled later this month with the Deputy Director of the National Park Service. The NPS wants to respond and to also continue programming regarding Indian memorials, curriculum, and Spectacle Island exhibits.

Advisory Council

Greg Ketchen, Chair, reported that the council will host a Spectacle Island study session. They hope to assist in programs and exhibits on Spectacle Island this season.

Future Meetings

The May meeting of the partnership will not be held at Hale & Dorr. It will be on Tuesday, May 18, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at Boston Redevelopment Authority, City Hall, 9th Floor.