

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 19th Floor, Boston,  
April 20, 2004, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

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

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

The minutes of the meeting held on March 16, were approved.

#### **Peddocks Island**

Doug Welch, Island Alliance, reported that the project team is consulting with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on some preliminary engineering specifications. The engineering team has been investigating existing conditions of utility infrastructure and if well water may be available. The engineering team found an existing water tank in relatively good working order. There are some potential issues with the existing septic field.

Doug reported that Bill Stokinger and Deni Sarno, DCR, are out leading a group of engineers around the island today. It was hoped that the engineers could also complete some “fly over” photography today for mapping. The engineers adopted the NPS GIS specifications, so this mapping data may be used for other purposes as well.

Cathy Douglas Stone suggested that John Sullivan, Boston Water & Sewer Commission, may also be able to lend his expertise to the project.

#### **Spectacle Island**

Peter Lewenberg said that they are still waiting for the legislation to pass. The Central Artery is working toward construction completion and the transfer of ownership to the city and the state. The visitor center is complete and they are waiting to receive the certificate of occupancy. They hope to be ready for a “soft” opening in late June.

#### **Water Transportation**

Peter Lewenberg gave a background of the water transportation system to the islands. Over the years, the shuttle system had been state funded, part of a sole source contract, or funded by grant money. Last year, the Partnership funded the \$65k needed to run the inter-island shuttle. This year the water transportation subcommittee felt it very important to keep the inter-island shuttle free for visitors. So, this year’s contract was structured to still

allow competition and keep the inter-island shuttle free for visitors. A portion of the ferry ticket will help defray the cost of the shuttle system. The ticket prices are still low, about the same cost as a movie ticket. Also there is a landing fee for charters. These fees will go back to the park and will also support the shuttle system. The new system is self-funding and provides for growth. A motion was made to adopt the water transportation plan as presented by the Operations committee. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Peter Lewenberg introduced Bill Walker, Principal of Harbor Express, who gave a presentation about his company and plans for the Boston Harbor Islands water transportation system.

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, reminded all that many volunteers that staff the islands live on the south shore, which makes a direct connection to the islands very important. Bill responded that they have access out of the Quincy Shipyard and there is plenty of parking. There also will be connections with the Quincy trolley program and the Adams NHP. They are also working with Richie Sutherland to run the southern loop of the water shuttle.

Gary McCann asked about the future plans to improve the transportation to the islands. Bill will work with the Partnership and others on the specifics.

Kelly Fellner, NPS, requested an update on the service to Thompson Island. Peter said that they are working on a link between Thompson and Spectacle Island on Saturdays.

Sarah Peskin, NPS, said that a traveler's information system is under development for the national parks in Massachusetts. The Adams/Harbor Islands connection will be highlighted.

### **Marketing**

Peter Lewenberg reported that the events brochure is under production. Jeremy Crockford has been hired again this year to do public relations work. He showed a postcard with the park logo that was developed and offered copies to Partners. He announced that the retail store is open. There will be a more comprehensive marketing report at the next meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Cathy Douglas Stone said that the Finance Committee has been focusing on three projects: financial reports, Spectacle Island legislation, and briefings for the congressional delegation. They are almost up to date on the financial reports, but still waiting for complete numbers from one or two Partners. The legislation is still on hold. There was a very successful briefing in Washington. Virginia Mayer, Mayor Menino's liaison with federal government, has become involved with organizing a trip to the islands with the Mayor and Representatives Lynch, Capuano, and Delahunt. Captain May offered to supply boat transportation.

### **Planning Committee**

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, distributed copies of the final report for the inventory of park intertidal habitats and asked Partners to identify others in their agencies that should have a copy. He said it was also available on the web. Bruce then described the extensive peer review process underway for articles in the special issue of the New England Naturalist.

### **NPS Update**

George Price announced that \$2.25M for ADA compliant docks has been approved by Congress, but not yet received by the park. This money will join \$474k that is available for docks. An active sub-committee is meeting regularly and is moving forward with the planning process for docks.

George mentioned that NPS budget issues have been making the news lately. He said that park managers are dealing with difficult financial issues and having to adjust their operations accordingly. He also said that the Inspector General has raised the issue of how the Park Service does partnerships based on investigations of the relationship with the Statue of Liberty and its associated non-profit agency. George was asked to report on how our Partnership works as part of his briefing in Washington.

### **Advisory Council**

Greg Ketchen, Chair of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council, announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held on June 2, at the NE Aquarium from 4:00-6:00PM.

### **Public Comment**

Kelly Fellner, NPS, announced an island clean-up on Lovells on Friday.

The meeting was adjourned.