

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
April 19, 2005, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Bill Hale—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; James Hunt—City of Boston, Department of Environmental Services; Tom Powers—Island Alliance (IA); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage and Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Cmdr. John O'Connor—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Terry Savage called the meeting to order. A revision to the minutes of the March 15 meeting was requested. A sentence in the water transportation paragraph will be amended to reflect that the “without cause” cancellation clause could be invoked by either party after 5 years. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15 meeting with this correction. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Water Transportation Workshop

Bruce Jacobson started the workshop with a presentation that included some background information on water transportation and a proposed framework for the discussion (the PowerPoint presentation is attached). The Partners discussed how to measure success of the system for 2005 and beyond. They also discussed last year's water shuttle deficit of \$44k, and brainstormed ideas to improve the system and to make it self sustaining.

There were suggestions to: keep pursuing state funding; link to existing transportation systems; have a voluntary fee for the shuttle or set up donation boxes; consider different levels of service for the shuttle; and, prepare a cost/revenue analysis of the inter-island water shuttle.

It was thought important to: have agencies use the current visitation statistics method consistently; understand peak periods, including how weather fluctuations and other anomalies affect boat traffic; and, increase visitor awareness. There was a suggestion to engage local networks to include the islands in their weather broadcasts.

Criteria for success were also discussed. One goal was to have 60k paying ferry customers for 2005. It was suggested to have visitors evaluate the water transportation system through both informal and formal methods. It was stated that it would be ideal to have daily water shuttle service to Bumpkin, Grape, Peddocks and Lovells islands throughout the summer with at least 2 runs to Bumpkin, Grape, and Peddocks, and more frequent service to Lovells. It was also desired to have at least one camping island accessible in the fall in addition to Georges Island.

New Business

Tom stated that the MEPA filing was submitted on April 15 for the micro tunnel bringing utilities to Peddocks Island from Hull. He said that support letters could be sent to Secretary Herzfelder, or that comments could be made at www.mass.gov/envir/MEPA for 20 days after the announcement is published.

Tom reported that DCR was doing environmental testing on Peddocks Island and that during the testing, the island will be closed.

Advisory Council

Pat Morss, Chair, reported that the Council met for a working session on April 6. The session focused on the planned exhibits for Spectacle Island and the public art competition.

Pat said the council is involved with a photography contest, and photography family fun day. He announced that his Boston Harbor Islands book of photos has been published and is now available.

Public Comments

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced that a series of DCR public meetings on partnership/stewardship begins on May 4 at 6pm at the Southwest Corridor Park.

Suzanne also said that Judy McDevitt, a Peddocks resident, has taken pictures of the buildings on Peddocks over a period of time. She said that these pictures would be a good source for monitoring the deterioration and current condition of the buildings.

Judy McDevitt asked about the closure of Gallops. Bruce Jacobson said that the closure by DCR is due to asbestos containing material in the soil. Several tons of the hazardous materials had been removed a few years ago, but the asbestos remains a problem. The DCR doesn't have a firm estimate for the remediation, but it could be as much as \$8M. The DCR and NPS are pursuing funding through the military for the project.

The next Partnership meeting will be held on May 17 at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, One City Hall Plaza, 9th floor Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.