

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
June 21, 2005, 3:00 PM – 4:45 PM**

Attendees: Bill Hale—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Cathy Stone—City of Boston, Office of Environmental and Energy Services; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Karl Pastore for Stephen Pritchard—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Jim Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Terry Savage and Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Cmdr. John O'Connor—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Vice-Chair Cathy Stone called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17th meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Maynard Goldman announced that he has stepped down from his position as Chairman of the Board for the Island Alliance. He has been involved in the park since before the creation of the national park and it is time to move on. He will be teaching in New Hampshire and is involved in more activities there. He thanked all and said that it has taken lots of hard work to get this far, and that there is still a long way to go. He wished all well and said that it is still the most exciting project in New England. The Partners thanked him for his many, many contributions and dedication to the project.

Water Transportation

Tom Powers gave an update on the water transportation system this year. He reminded all that Island Alliance is acting as an agent for the Partnership to provide water transportation to the park. The inter-island water shuttle is a continuing challenge to fund. It was hoped that proceeds from the ferry tickets sold and a docking fee for charter groups, would make the shuttle self sustaining last year, and perhaps even turn a profit. Due to low ridership and the inability to collect dock fees, there was a shortfall of \$43k last year. Tom thanked all Partners that contributed money to the system, but said Island Alliance was again left with a significant shortfall to pay.

On the positive side, Secretary Herzfelder has pledged \$50k toward transportation this year. The cost of the service this year is expected to rise because of gas and other increased operating expenses. Even with a reduced schedule, only one shuttle running on Mondays–Thursdays and two shuttles Fridays–Sundays, the cost this year is expected to be approximately \$155k. Unless there is a drastic increase in ferry ridership, the inter-island shuttle may have to stop running in August to avoid a shortfall.

The Partners discussed the issue. A suggestion was made to acknowledge the situation as a crisis and pursue a solution through a state subsidy or a change in legislation. The Partnership requested that Tom draft a letter to Secretary Herzfelder requesting a full subsidy for the coming year, and to also request help for resolving the docking fee collection issue, perhaps having the state lawyers revisit the issue. The Partnership advised to plan ahead as it is more difficult to ask for funds for a shortfall.

Little Brewster

Tom Powers reported that the temporary dock at Little Brewster Island was damaged in the recent storm. The island is currently closed to the public and some school trips had to be cancelled. The price tag for the repair is \$40k. Without the repair, the island would have to be closed, probably until the permanent dock is completed, which would be at least two seasons. Island Alliance gave the go ahead for the work, NPS & USCG are looking for funds, but the timing makes it difficult to secure funding.

Marketing

Larissa Fawkner, Island Alliance, reported that Yo-Yo Ma, a renowned cellist, was filmed as he was playing on Little Brewster Island. The segment will be part of a commercial produced by the National Park Foundation. She thanked Commander O'Connor and USCG staff for their extraordinary efforts in pulling it off. Larissa also gave an update about the upcoming events on Georges Island: Children's Theatre every Friday and Family Fun Days on Saturdays and Sundays.

Bruce Jacobson announced that the Partnership Marketing Committee will meet next on July 12. He asked that each Partner agency designate a person that has expertise in marketing or public relations to participate in the meeting. There will be opportunities to cross market and get the both the message of the park and the agency out.

Larissa introduced Michael Raskin and Ken Hayes. They both have experience holding music and art festivals in non-traditional venues and are very interested in the islands for "Boston's Big Gig". Larissa is taking them to Georges Island later in the week to introduce them to the resource.

Park Updates

Karl Pastore reported that Peddocks Island will be open to the public on June 25. Fort Andrews is fenced off because of safety hazards. Karl also said that a new waterline is being constructed from Hull to Georges Island. Work has begun, and they expect water service soon. They also are removing lead paint from the hospital area of the fort.

Advisory Council

Pat Morss, Chair, reported the council met on June 1. There was frustration about the park getting smaller and smaller, with Spectacle not open, Peddocks questionable and Great Brewster closed. The council discussed their role in public outreach as well as their role advising management regarding ongoing operations of the park. Pat said that youth from the Boston Environmental Ambassadors to National Parks (BEAN) program participants made a presentation to the council about the great work they are doing in the park. All council members were encouraged to become more active on committees, upcoming civic engagement trips, and event programming. Pat said that this year the council will also look at how council members interact with the park's Native American consultation process.

Pat announced that the next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on September 7, from 6-8pm at the New England Aquarium Teacher's Conference Center.

New Business

Tom Powers announced plans for a Boston Harbor Islands Regatta. The first annual regatta is planned for Saturday, October 1. The Island Alliance Board has a dedicated committee working hard on the planning. The race course will be a figure 8 around Georges Island. Plans include entertainment on Georges Island for the spectators, as well as a clambake and awards ceremony after the race. They already have a lot of excitement generated about the event, and have professionals planning the details. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are being pursued. It is hoped that the event will generate revenue as well as raise visibility and attract new visitors to the park.

Bruce said that the topic of wind generation has been raised for consideration by the Partnership, and interest has been shown by the City of Boston. He said that it will be an agenda item for the July meeting.

Public Comment

The BEAN students gave a report on their recent activities. They held a very successful dance cruise and introduced about 80 new young people to the islands. They gave thanks to Jay Spence of Mass Bay Lines who donated a boat, the Barr Foundation for donating the food, and Larissa Fawkner for pulling it off. The BEAN students introduced over 1100 new contacts to the park through their outreach and mini-grant programs, and Earthday events.

Some BEAN students also participated in the kick-off for the park's all-taxa biodiversity inventory of invertebrates. This event involved catching insects which were identified by Dr. E.O. Wilson and Dr. Brian Farrell. Over 50 species were collected and identified in a half-hour. Some students also went on the park's Biodiversity Days cruise and had the opportunity to learn about an eel grass research restoration project in the harbor conducted by Mass Marine Fisheries.

Tom Powers gave recognition to Jen Watt, BEAN Program Manager, on her last day. He thanked her for her leadership. Jen is moving on to further her environmental career in New York City.

Tom invited all to the Annual Island Alliance Drumlin Cruise after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.