

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

Attendees: Bill Hale and Linda Smith-Mooney—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Linda Haar—Boston Redevelopment Authority; James Hunt—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); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Terry Savage and Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); LCDR Daniel Johnson—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Terry Savage, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order. He read a letter from NPS Regional Director Mary Bomar announcing that Bruce Jacobson is now Superintendent of Boston Harbor Islands. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21st meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Renewable Power Development on Boston Harbor Islands

Bruce Jacobson announced that the final report of the predevelopment of renewables in the Boston Harbor Islands national park area is complete. A summary of the recommendations found in the report was in the meeting package. Partners received a copy of the full report before the meeting, and copies are available from the Partnership office. Bruce gave a quick background on the issue and said that there will be an in-depth discussion at the September Partnership meeting. It will be a timely discussion because the City of Boston is engaged in preliminary discussions to identify first steps toward a potential wind project on one of their islands.

Water Transportation

Tom Powers reported that a new Harbor Express ferry arrived in Boston today. The boat will be dedicated to park service and is scheduled for inspection tomorrow. It is expected that the ferry will be licensed for a total of 200 passengers, with seating inside for 80. The boat is handicapped-accessible, is equipped with a sound system and concession stand. The trip from Long Wharf to Georges Island should take 20-25 minutes. The second new ferry is scheduled for completion in three weeks. When both are in service, there will be departures from Long Wharf every half hour. Bill Walker thanked the Coast Guard in Boston, Washington, DC and Louisiana for their outstanding efforts moving the review process along quickly and smoothly.

Tom said that there were service adjustments with the interisland shuttle. It was determined that running one shuttle during the weekdays was inadequate. A second shuttle was added to the weekday schedule and now both shuttles stop at Georges Island. The downside of this expanded service is that it will bring the total contract price of the shuttle to \$175k. Even if the trend of increased ferry ridership continues there could be a significant shortfall of funds again this year.

Park Updates

Karl Pastore reported that the waterline from Hull to Georges Island is complete, and that water service has been restored.

Bruce Jacobson introduced Dr. Jessica Rykken, the postdoctoral fellow from the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. She will work on the all-taxa biodiversity inventory of invertebrates. She arrived last week, and has trips scheduled out to the islands next week.

Advisory Council

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

New Business

Tom Powers announced that the first annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta will be held on Saturday, October 1. The figure-8 race course around Georges Island will be a pursuit race. There will be activities on Georges Island for spectators and an awards ceremony and celebration at the end of the race. There was a suggestion to get the Boston Sailing center involved.

Public Comment

There was a suggestion to hold a future partnership meeting on one of the new ferries. There were other suggestions made to expand the season and to expand the hours the park.

Bruce reminded all that there will be no August meeting of the Partnership. The next meeting will be held on September 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.