

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 20, 2005, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**  
60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA  
*As Corrected*

**Attendees:** Bill Hale—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Linda Haar—Boston Redevelopment Authority; James Hunt and Cathy Stone—City of Boston, Environmental & Energy Services; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Stephen Burrington and Betsy Shure Gross—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); LCDR Daniel Johnson—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

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Cathy Stone Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.** The new Commissioner of DCR, Stephen Burrington, was introduced.

#### **Renewable Power Development on Boston Harbor Islands**

Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute, gave a presentation on renewable energy in the Boston Harbor Islands national park area. He reviewed the recommendations of the feasibility study, "The Boston Harbor Islands Renewables Planning Guide." He requested that the Partnership endorse the recommendations in the study, which are summarized in the attached memo of July 19, 2005.

The Partners discussed the benefits of renewable energy, potential wildlife impacts, possible revenues to the park, archeological and visual concerns, and educational possibilities. It was the sense of the Partnership to accept the recommendations in the memo from the Planning Committee and Subcommittee on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design and to move forward investigating wind opportunities with additional analysis of related issues.

#### **Water Transportation**

Tom Powers reported that the new Harbor Express ferry boat is expected to arrive later in the week. He also reported that the ferry ridership was up from last year. Unfortunately, even with a portion of the ferry ticket supporting the water shuttle system and a shortened season, the interisland system is still in a major deficit. The park has no workable way to collect fees from charter-boat operators to help support the system.

#### **Advisory Council**

Pat Morss, Chair, presented a news article from the Gloucester Daily Times about the proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on Outer Brewster.

Pat reported that Council members worked closely with Island Alliance, DCR, and other Partners on several programs this summer. They helped with family fun days, hosted a photography contest, and participated in civic engagement trips. The Council discussed the

adaptive reuse project being carried out by DCR and the Island Alliance at Fort Andrews on Peddocks Island at the last meeting on September 7.

The Council will begin a review the park's 5-year strategic plan. The Council plans to research the results of the stated goals in the strategic plan and intends to "grade" the park on the results. The Council plans to report their findings to the Partnership in the winter.

### **New Business**

Tom Powers announced that the first annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta will be held on Saturday, October 1. He also invited all to a kick-off dinner for the regatta on Friday at the Boston Harbor Hotel, which offered food and drink for \$20.

Bruce Jacobson said that there are many "housekeeping" details that need attention by the Partners. New nomination letters are needed for most of the seats. Bruce will provide a template and details.

Bruce encouraged partners to review the level of participation by their agencies in standing committees, where the "work" of the Partnership gets done. He said that the finance committee will be reviewing capital and one-time projects to submit to the NPS funding process. He encouraged each Partner agency to submit projects. Over the past 5 years, the park has been successful in getting more than \$5M from NPS for project funding. He also encouraged members to attend the upcoming end-of-year review at the operations committee meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Bruce Jacobson brought up a topic that had been in the news recently: a private company, AES Corporation, proposed building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility on Outer Brewster Island. At this time, there is no formal proposal and no details from the proponents. There would be many steps before such a project could move forward. One would be a two-thirds vote of the Massachusetts legislature to pull the island out of the state park system. Jim Hunt stated that the city is looking for more information; Tom Powers indicated that the Island Alliance had many questions and would like more discussion; Linda Haar and Terry Savage said that they personally would like to know how such a facility would fit into a regional siting strategy; Bill Hale was curious about the effects of the proposed facility on the LNG traffic to the Everett facility. The general consensus was that more information was needed. A cruise to Outer Brewster Island was proposed for Partners and staff to learn more about the island. It was also proposed that the prospective developer be asked give a presentation to the Partnership. Bruce Berman, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, voiced strong opposition to the project and elaborated on his many concerns. The Partners discussed the issue, particularly about the environmental impacts and the process for taking park land for such a use.

Jenna Sigman, New England Aquarium, announced that the Boston Harbor Islands will be the focus of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Ocean Summit, hopefully to be held on one of the Harbor Islands. Students will brainstorm the challenges of managing and increasing access to the park, tackling issues that the Partnership deals with on a regular basis. They plan to engage more than 100 students from 17 neighborhoods in the program.

Vivien Li commented that the press clippings contained in the meeting packets did not include any minority press. She suggested that better efforts be made to reach this very important market.

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, expressed disappointment about the season ending early and the limited access to the islands other than Georges. He also expressed concern about Fort Andrews being completely fenced off, and hoped that a different solution to address safety concerns could be considered for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Attachment: Memo to Boston Harbor Islands Partnership from Planning Committee and Subcommittee on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design, July 19, 2005, re: Wind Power Development in Boston Harbor.

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
**From:** Boston Harbor Islands Planning Committee and Subcommittee on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design  
**Date:** July 19, 2005  
**RE:** Wind Power Development in Boston Harbor

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The Subcommittee on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design believes that it is time to aggressively investigate opportunities for wind power development on some Boston Harbor Islands and to move forward with additional analysis of issues related to the success of such initiative. We request the endorsement of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership in this effort.

### **Background:**

The *Boston Harbor Islands General Management Plan* (2002) establishes that the Partnership shows environmental leadership and a commitment to the principles of sustainability in its policies and practices.

The U.S. Congress' 1996 enabling legislation establishing Boston Harbor Islands national park area directs the creation of a new concept national park requiring a major share of sustained local self-financing. Among the very few realistic options to date, consistent with the GMP and the enabling legislation, is the harvesting of renewable energy resources presented by the Boston Harbor Islands. (*Economic Sustainability Strategy/ Realizing the Promise*, BHINPA, November 2001).

To those ends, the Urban Harbors Institute and Island Alliance initiated and have recently completed a predevelopment feasibility study for wind power and other renewable energy development in Boston Harbor, with funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy Trust.

The study, *Boston Harbor Islands Renewables Planning Guide* ("Planning Guide"), after consideration of potential community impacts, impacts on environmental, cultural and historical resources, and utility interconnection requirements, air navigation needs, and other factors, makes the following recommendations:

- Long Island, Moon Island, Peddocks Island, and Spectacle Island are among the best potential locations for wind turbines on the harbor islands.
- Wind development on the islands has the potential for making a meaningful contribution to park operating funds, while demonstrating the environmental leadership for which the *General Management Plan* calls.
- Future development and operation of the proposed turbines might best be carried out by a new, for-profit limited liability company (LLC), created by the Island Alliance as a joint venture with other taxable partners. This approach would maximize the revenues available to benefit the park, while limiting the risks to island owners, the Partnership, and the Island Alliance.

## **Recommendations to the BHI Partnership**

- We ask the Partnership, after its review of the Planning Guide (especially the Preferred Alternative), to endorse the concept of wind energy development on selected harbor islands, among other reasons, to demonstrate the Partnerships' commitment to leadership in environmental sustainability, public education, and as a source of park revenue.
- Support the Island Alliance and island owners in the Next Steps (outlined below) to further explore the feasibility of this concept.
- Participate with others in the development of a strategic plan to guide future wind development in Boston Harbor to meet the goals and objectives of the park.

### **Next steps in feasibility assessment:**

Further study is needed to address a number of critical issues that could affect the viability of such wind energy development in the park area. These include, but are not limited to:

- Detailed analyses of wind resources and potential power generation;
- Utility interconnection requirements and costs;
- Other design and construction requirements;
- Visual and aesthetic effects of such development on the park's scenic resources;
- Potential impacts on navigable airspace;
- Project permitting, including formal analysis of potential impacts on environmental and historic resources;
- Financial requirements and legal structure of the proposed LLC; and
- A strategy for sharing of revenues among Partnership entities.

In addition, an expanded program of public education and outreach must be designed and implemented to bring more voices into discussions of how this development could best happen. With that, as noted above, a consensus strategy and plan can be created to guide future wind development in the Harbor.

The Island Alliance will seek additional outside resources to support this next stage in the planning process, and the Island Alliance and the Subcommittee on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design will keep the Partnership informed as to progress.