

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2005, 3:00 PM – 4:45 PM  
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA**

**Attendees:** Bill Hale—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; 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); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Cmdr. John O'Connor—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

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Cathy Stone Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. There was a request to revise the minutes of the September 20 meeting to reflect that the Partnership had concerns about the proposed LNG facility on Outer Brewster Island. There was a motion to approve the minutes of September meeting with this correction. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### **Role and Function of the Partnership**

Bruce Jacobson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the role and function of the Partnership. Information packets were provided to all Partners. Bruce will contact individuals with specifics of the nominating process so that vacant positions on the Partnership can be filled.

#### **Season Review**

Bruce Jacobson gave a quick review of the season that is summarized in the Operations Committee notes from October 6, 2005. Overall ferry ridership was up, however the visitation numbers for the park are very difficult to compare from year to year because agency participation in the Partnership-approved park visitor counting system is not consistent.

Highlights of the year included the addition of two new Harbor Express vessels that were dedicated to park service. Many new successful events were added this year: weekly Children's Theatre performances, expanded Family Fun Days, biodiversity events in June and September; and the Island Alliance's first annual Regatta.

Bruce stated that the coming year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national park area. He thought it would be interesting to publish a summery of what was accomplished in that time, and suggested that the format could be an email newsletter that could highlight the accomplishments of one Partner agency once a month. There was a suggestion to also have the information available in paper form. Cathy Stone suggested that the Advisory Council host a series of public meetings to reach out to new communities to spread the word.

#### **Outer Brewster Island & LNG Update**

Linda Haar reported that representatives from AES Corporation gave a presentation to the planning committee earlier that day. AES representatives gave an overview of their company and a summary of their proposal to build a liquefied natural gas storage (LNG) facility on Outer Brewster Island. The concept is to construct a substantial facility on the island; in fact it would be the largest LNG storage facility in the world according to the proponents. Following the presentation, members of the committee and the public asked questions and raised

several concerns about the potential impacts of a facility on the park; many of those questions remain unanswered.

The Partners also had many questions about: the impacts of a facility on the park on natural and cultural resources; the state Article 97 process; a federal process; security issues, and the details of proposed financial benefits. There was general agreement that much more information is needed; a regional assessment of LNG sites was desired. Stephen Burrington stated that DCR currently has other parks facing energy siting proposals and that the agency is working on standards for parks. The Partners talked about the role of the Partnership, as many of the Partner agencies may have taken a position. Bruce reminded all that the mission of the National Park Service and Partnership, as stated in the general management plan, is to protect the resource. As stewards of the resource, it was suggested to gather more information through the planning committee and perhaps to foster public debate through Advisory Council.

### **Advisory Council**

Pat Morss, Chair, said that the council has begun a review the park's 5-year strategic plan and will report their findings to the Partnership in the winter. He invited all on the boat trip to Outer Brewster on Monday and to the special workshop of the council on November 9 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

### **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.