

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2005, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA**

Attendees: Linda Haar—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Stone—City of Boston, Environmental & Energy Services; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; 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).

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

Spectacle Island

Diane Haynes gave a presentation on the status of Spectacle Island. She reported that there has been much progress made in preparation for the island's public opening. Visitor Center exhibits should be installed by the end of December. Four shade shelters, several picnic tables, and a visitor desk have also been installed. Identification, orientation, directional, warning signs and wayside exhibits will be installed soon. The leachate system problems were not resolved; a sewer line to Long Island will be constructed. Several agreements between the Central Artery Project and the island owners remain unsettled and need resolution. Steps have been made toward resolution, but it is uncertain that they will be resolved before the 2006 park season.

The Partners asked about the security of the island and the status of the caretaker. They also discussed the timing of the sign installation. Partners gave suggestions to use the island as a music or opera venue and to host corporate functions and weddings. Students from the Boston Environmental Ambassadors to National Parks (B.E.A.N) program were in attendance and also made suggestions to add a basketball court, a computer center and a playground for younger children.

Park Updates

Bruce Jacobson announced that there will be a joint meeting of the Planning and Finance committees held to set priorities for NPS funding requests for Boston Harbor Islands projects. He repeated his request that each agency put together a list of projects for review and redistributed project guidelines.

Tom Powers reported that early numbers indicate that ferry ridership was up at least 35% from last year. Island Alliance is working on ways to support the inter-island water shuttle system for 2006. One possibility they are exploring is to partner with a state agency to obtain public funding to buy two new boats. This could significantly cut the yearly cost of the water shuttle service. Tom recently met with Secretary Pritchard and requested \$75k to support the system next year.

The Boston Harbor Islands Annual Dinner was a true success. Congressman Capuano and Kathy Abbott were honored for their contributions to youth programming. It was the first time in nine years that it was a sold-out event.

Bruce gave a quick update on the proposal to place a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility on Outer Brewster Island. There were many press articles on the issue in the meeting packet. Bruce gave Partners a draft of a natural resource report on the Brewster Island cluster that was prepared by the NPS. He asked them to review it before the report goes to print. Bruce mentioned that Stephen Pritchard, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, expressed support for keeping Outer Brewster part of the state park system. There are a variety of stringent federal and state requirements that would have to be met before a change of use could occur.

Tom Powers announced that Doug Welch has left Island Alliance to work closer to his home in Portland. He will be missed.

Advisory Council

Pat Morss, Chair, said that the Advisory Council held a well-attended workshop on November 9 to discuss the proposal to build an LNG facility on Outer Brewster Island. The council is working on a position statement.

The council has continues work on a review the park's 5-year strategic plan and plans to report to the Partnership at the January meeting.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.