

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA  
March 21, 2006, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Attendees:** Greg Ketchen—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Cathy Stone and Jim Hunt—City of Boston, Office of Environmental and Energy Services; Betsy Shure Gross—Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations; Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center; CDR John O’Connor—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Cathy Stone, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and introduced the Partners. The minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting were approved.

Karl Pastore acknowledged Allan Morris and his work as island district manager. He introduced Susan Kane, the new district manager.

**Outer Brewster Island Update**

Bruce Jacobson reported that there was a joint committee hearing at the State House held on March 8 regarding a bill that could result in a 99-year lease of Outer Brewster Island for use as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility.

He said that Secretary Pritchard testified at the hearing. Betsy Shure Gross passed out a written copy of the testimony which expressed the administrations concerns and commitment to the MEPA process and Article 97.

Bruce also testified at the hearing and spoke of the fundamental purpose of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area, which is essentially the protection of resources for the enjoyment of future generations. He also testified that Outer Brewster Island was acquired by the commonwealth in 1972 with federal land and water conservation funds. Under the requirements of the Fund, this change of use would require the approval of the NPS. Bruce also talked about the effect the facility would have on park resources and that it would lead to impairment. This goes against the 1916 Organic Act and the park legislation. He distributed a copy of his written testimony.

Jim Hunt said that the city did not submit testimony, but that they had concerns similar to NPS and DCR. He added that the city is also very concerned with LNG ship traffic in the inner harbor, and hoped that there are solutions found. He said that a legislative subcommittee had been formed to study all the proposed LNG projects in the region.

The bill did not make it out of committee, and has been sent to study.

**BEAN Report**

The Boston Environmental Ambassadors to National Parks have been involved in many activities. Three students gave reports. Amal Sheikahmed said that she also testified at the Outer Brewster hearing and read her testimony to the Partnership. Ling Lin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the biodiversity of the Boston Harbor Islands. The presentation highlighted the birds of the islands and an invasive crab study that is currently underway. Sentidra Joseph and Tatiana Grant gave a presentation on the BEAN outreach efforts. They have been visiting community centers to educate participants about national parks and the islands through a

series of games and activities. The students are also in charge of a mini-grant program that distributes funds for transportation to the park.

### **Peddocks Island Update**

Tom Powers gave a brief update on the Peddocks Island project. He said that a request for proposals has been sent out for a utility line project. The cost estimates are up, so the final decision to proceed on the project has not been made. Tom will announce the decision at the next Partnership meeting. Marianne Connolly offered the assistance of MWRA; they have experience with tunnel projects and could help look at the estimates.

### **Park Update**

Bruce reminded all that the park is open year-round, not just the summer season. Worlds End and Thompson have year round programs. There are also boat cruises through the islands every month of the year and substantial educational programming occurs in the spring and fall.

Bruce announced that ferry service to Georges Island will begin on May 6. June 24 is the summer kick-off. He said that starting this date there will be ferry service every half-hour from Long Wharf on weekends, and water shuttle service and camping will begin. Spectacle Island is scheduled to open; he asked all Partners to mark their calendars for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The visitor center, exhibits and signage will be showcased. The NPS, DCR, and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands will give tours that day.

He asked all Partners to submit their events to the online database on BostonIslands.com. Bruce said that Family Fun Days and performances by the Boston Children's Theatre will happen in July and August on Georges Island. The Partners discussed staffing and programming for Spectacle Island. Steve Marcus announced a Friends trip to Spectacle Island and Tom Powers announced an Island Alliance Drumlin Cruise to Spectacle Island on June 20.

### **Advisory Council**

Greg Ketchen reported that the Advisory Council held its annual meeting on March 1. He said that new members were nominated. Peter Rosen was elected Chair, Claudia Smith-Reid was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Linda Smith-Mooney was nominated Voting Partner, and he was nominated as Voting Alternate. He said that the Council intends to participate in the Spectacle Island Opening, and may provide tours, or perhaps kick-off another photo contest.

### **Superintendents Report**

Bruce Jacobson said that the Advisory Council also decided that the council's representatives to the Partnership will make the report, not the Chairperson. Bruce reported that several projects are making progress: a septic system project on Georges by DCR; and two projects done cooperatively by NPS, DCR, and Island Alliance: a walkways and railing project on Georges and a floating docks and ramps project on Lovells, Bumpkin and Grape. NPS and the US Coast Guard are also cooperating on replacing the floating dock at Little Brewster.

Bruce announced that he and Partnership representatives will go to Washington, DC in April to brief the congressional delegation. They will also meet with the Deputy Director of the NPS while they are there.

### **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting was adjourned.