

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
April 18, 2006, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Marianne Farrington—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Cathy Stone—City of Boston, Office of Environmental and Energy Services; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations; CDR John O'Connor—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Cathy Stone, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum; the minutes from the March 21, 2006 meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Tom Powers reported that partnership representatives (Bruce Jacobson, Tom Powers, Steven Burrington, and Peter Rosen) made the annual briefing trip to Washington, DC. There was good representation from many of the congressional offices and it was a very successful trip. There was a great deal of interest shown from the congressional staff about how the park was doing with the public/private partnership. The group also met with Don Murphy, Deputy Director of the National Park Service. One topic covered in that meeting was the proposal to construct a liquefied natural gas facility on Outer Brewster Island.

Partnership Administration

Mary Raczko, NPS, announced that nominations for Partners and Voting Alternates had been sent to Washington. The Secretary of Interior will make the appointments. The group discussed holding a half-day retreat on Thompson Island to discuss next steps for the Partnership. It was suggested that new members receive an introduction to the park and the partnership.

Sarah Peskin, NPS, introduced Hale Hawbecker, Deputy Director, Department of the Interior Ethics Office. Hale gave an ethics briefing to the Partnership. He explained that Partnership members are considered special government employees (SGEs) and described what that means (the presentation is attached). Questions can be directed to Bruce Jacobson or the regional NPS ethics officer. Hale will give a presentation about Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to the Advisory Council immediately following the Partnership meeting. Advisory Council members are not SGEs unless they are appointed to the Partnership.

Water Transportation

Tom Powers said that the prices for ferry tickets have been set for the season. Adult tickets will be \$12 on Thursday through Sunday and \$10 on Monday through Wednesday. There are discounts for seniors, children and families. Ferries will run from Quincy and Long Wharf to Georges Island and from Long Wharf to Spectacle Island. A portion of the ticket price (\$2.25) will support the interisland water shuttle system; it is predicted that this will only cover the cost of one water shuttle. Last year, there were two interisland water shuttles and the system ran an \$87k deficit.

Park Updates

Susan Kane, DCR, reported that a caretaker has been contracted for Spectacle Island and is scheduled to move in on May 1. DCR continues to get the island ready for the opening on June 24.

Larissa said that there will be a park opening event at Christopher Columbus Park on June 24. Per the owners' request, there is no large-scale opening event planned for Spectacle; it will be a soft-opening. Responses to the request for proposals for food, retail, and marina operations are due later in the week.

Tom Powers said that the Partnership will announce the beginning of schematic design for the Harbor Park Pavilion at a press event hosted by Artery Business Committee on May 11. The project has received a major tourism grant through the Mass Turnpike Authority in the amount of \$80k to begin the design process. There has also been \$1.45M designated for the project through a federal transportation authorization bill.

Advisory Council

Marianne Farrington announced the next Advisory Council meeting will be held on June 7. She announced that she is leaving the New England Aquarium and will be resigning her position on the Advisory Council and the Partnership.

Public Comment

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced a trip to Spectacle Island. He also said that it has been helpful to have meetings on volunteer issues that have been convened by NPS.

Ritchie Sutherland announced some upcoming island clean-ups.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.