

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

Attendees: Bill Hale and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Betsy Shure Gross, Susan Kane and Carl Pastore—Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Jim Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Bruce Jacobson and Terry Savage—National Park Service (NPS); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Commander Fred Myer—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Betsy Shure Gross, Chair, called the meeting to order. The Minutes of the September 19 meeting were approved.

Visual Resource Study

Bruce Jacobson presented some background information about a visual resource study that was being conducted in the park. A team of students from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) have reviewed scenic inventory literature, made field visits to the park, gathered input from the Planning Committee and the Advisory Council and have prepared a methodology for the Boston Harbor Islands. Bruce introduced Dr. Robert Ryan and the students who are conducting the study. The remainder of the meeting was a PowerPoint presentation (attached) and discussion lead by the study team. The Partners discussed the study and made suggestions. The team will provide a final report at the end of the semester.

Report on Spectacle Island Evaluation

Bruce Jacobson reported that the agencies and vendors involved with Spectacle Island are collectively doing an evaluation of the 2006 season. He identified several issues that the group is working on including: capital needs for 2007; review of pet and bicycle policies; vegetation management staffing needs; electric vehicles; events; recycling and trash issues; boat wakes effects on dock; possibilities of an extended season; and an alcohol policy review.

Water Transportation

Tom Powers reported that the Water Transportation Subcommittee met with boat vendors and discussed charter fees. The committee is working on a proposal to continue to charge a “per head” fee, but only for commercial groups not for non-profits. Most vendors agreed to pay this fee to the park. Island Alliance is considering hiring staff to help facilitate this program.

Meetings for 2007

Bruce announced that the bylaws for the Partnership have been changed to allow more flexibility for scheduling meetings. There will be Partnership meetings held on the 3rd

Tuesday of the following months: January, March, May, June, September, and November.

Bruce summarized the priorities for each of the Partnership Committees:

Operations Committee: park emergency operations plan; visitor statistics; water transportation subcommittee; and boat wake impacts.

Planning Committee: vegetation management plan for spectacle; resource stewardship strategy; and renewable energy and sustainable design.

Education Committee: Little Brewster plan; and park interpretive plan revision.

Marketing & Public Relations Committee: island niche marketing; version of rack card; and publications.

Finance & Legislation Committee: financial contributions reporting; and capital priorities for funding.

Advisory Council

Charlie Norris reported that the council met on November 6 and participated in the visual resource study. The next quarterly meeting will be held on December 6, and the annual meeting will be held on Spectacle Island on March 7.

Other Items

- Dr. E.O. Wilson's new book *The Creation: an Appeal to Save Life on Earth* includes information on the park and the all taxa biodiversity inventory.
- A permanent full-time NPS position for a program assistant will be posted soon.
- The Little Brewster Dock construction is unlikely to be finished by next year. There is a possibility to continue to use the floating dock provided by Massport.
- The Partnership was invited to a tribute to Gerry Studds.
- Kathy Abbott is a new board member of the Island Alliance
- The Discovery Cruise brochure was distributed.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.