

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Executive Office of Energy And Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA
November 15, 2011, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh, Chris Montgomery, and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); David Cash and Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); LCDR Jason Smith—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Chair David Cash welcomed all, called the meeting to order, and announced a quorum was present. Partners and the audience introduced themselves. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the September 20th meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.** The group reviewed the proposed 2012 meeting dates, and accepted them as presented: January 17, March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18, and November 20. Bruce Jacobson announced a new meeting location, an EPA courtroom at the federal McCormack Building.

DCR Reorganization

Karl Pastore had not yet arrived, so Bruce Jacobson explained that DCR is in the middle of a reorganization, as part of the continued process merging of the former state agencies MDC and DEM. It is expected that the current system of 7 regions and 17 districts will be re-arranged into 5 regions and 12 districts. Bruce said it is important to note that overall staffing levels will not be reduced, but field operations will work on larger geographic areas.

Science in the Park

Bruce Jacobson gave a presentation on science in the park. He mentioned several recent inventory, research, monitoring, and citizen science projects coordinated by NPS. He said scientific understanding leads to better stewardship of park resources. Another goal is to share the scientific findings with the scientific community, students, and park visitors. He showed examples of some of the posters, brochures, curriculum, and scientific publications that were developed.

David Cash mentioned the Science Symposium in October was a great event.

Summer 2011 Youth Programs

Arthur Pearson showed a video about the Summer Connections Program, a learning alternative to summer school for Boston Public School students. Thompson Island Outward bound partnered with the National Park Service, Orchard Gardens K-8 School and John Marshall Elementary School to serve 160 students over the 2011 summer season. The video can be seen at the park's YouTube channel at bostonharborislands.org.

Hugh Hawthorne, NPS, gave updates on youth and education programs at Boston Harbor Islands. The Island Ambassador and Green Corps programs grew this year. There were 17 youth engaged in each program, over half were from Dorchester, the rest from Roxbury, Quincy, Mattapan, and Somerville. Together they served over 8,000 hours. The youth engaged in job development training and mentoring programs as well as worked on a variety of programs in the park including trail work, invasive control, visitor services delivery, special event support, and citizen science activities.

Hugh said there was a very successful teacher training done in partnership with DCR and Massachusetts Historical Society. Twenty teachers participated in a weeklong workshop focusing on the recruitment of disenfranchised populations by the Union during the Civil War. All 20 teachers created curriculum that will be posted on the park website.

Mary Raczko, NPS, mentioned youth volunteer hours were up this year, 336 youth contributed 3,400 service hours in 2011.

2016

Bruce Jacobson reminded all of the significance of 2016 to the park. Three anniversaries occur that year, the park's 20th, Boston Light's 300th, and the National Park Service's 100th. Bruce reported the Planning Committee met on November 1 at the request of the Partnership to develop ideas on ways to celebrate 2016. He presented the list of ideas generated in the notes of the meeting. One item was to complete outcomes on the park's strategic plan. The Partners discussed several of the items including creating an honorary committee with a celebrity and community leaders to help plan, potential high profile vessels that might build connections to the park, art installations, and the hope that the anniversary date could leverage improvements to park infrastructure or ferry system. There was no agreement about direction the Planning Committee should follow, though David Cash suggested the celebration continue to be a regular agenda item.

Bruce Jacobson said that NPS issued *A Call to Action* to rally employees and partners toward a shared vision. The plan lists goals and actions for stewardship and engagement. Tom Powers said that the President's Great Outdoors Initiative and *A Call to Action* were both highlight at the Friends Alliance Conference, and both plans have goals that overlap with those of Boston Harbor Island Alliance and the Partnership.

Partnership Membership

Bruce Jacobson reported that terms for many Partners have expired, and although members serve until replaced, membership should be brought up-to-date. He passed out a membership status report that includes instructions for nominating candidates.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-chair, invited all to the next meeting on December 7. Wayne Petersen from Massachusetts Audubon will give a presentation about the birds of the islands.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, asked if there were any community meetings being held about the DCR reorganization. None were known. Suzanne also suggested that Gallops Island be cleaned up and opened to the public as part of the 2016 celebration. Karl Pastore responded that DCR hopes to do much of the remediation work by 2014 9this is also a goal established in the park's 2016 strategic plan.

The meeting was adjourned.