

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, 15th Floor, Boston, MA
March 20, 2012, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh, Chris Montgomery, and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Jane Ellis for Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Antonia Pollak—City of Boston; David Cash and Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound; CDR Jason Smith—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Chair David Cash welcomed all, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Floating Docks

Bruce Jacobson said the dock and float ownership was transferred from USCG to NPS, and is managed cooperatively. Managers are on schedule to have the dock open in May in time for Boston Light training. The public trips are scheduled to start in June. Georges Island Pier is undergoing a \$1.6M renovation to keep the pier operational in the short term until it can be replaced. The Lovejoy floats will be in operation until renovations are complete. Thompson Island is on schedule to replace the float that had been on loan from DCR. DCR made modifications to the float for use on Peddocks Island. The new float system on Thompson involves 6 floats assembled into one, and is expected to be in use by April 1.

War of 1812 Commemoration

CDR Matt Stuck gave an overview of events planned around Boston Harbor for the commemoration of the War of 1812 in late June and early July. Events will include visits by US and Foreign Navel and USCG ships, Tall Ships, a turnaround of the *USS Constitution* and a fly over by the Blue Angels.

David Cash asked if there is potential for any of the Tall Ships to dock on the islands. Spectacle Island was suggested as a good location. CDR Jason Smith responded that all Class A vessels have their dockage set, but there could be possibilities for Class B and C vessels.

Partners suggested publicizing Georges, Lovells, and Spectacle Islands as good viewing locations for the air show. Hugh Hawthorne, NPS, said he planned to have visuals about the vessels and aircraft available at the Pavilion and asked if USCG had any image files or identification charts that they could share. CDR Jason Smith was not aware of a guide produced by USCG, but that he would check for images. Rebecca Smerling, BHIA, added that there will be music from 1812 will be featured in programming on Spectacle Island.

Public Programming Update 2012

Rebecca Smerling, BHIA, gave an update on plans for public programming in 2012. She said they will be continuing on the success over the last two years with Civil War themed programming and “Let’s Move” activities like yoga, disk golf, Zumba, walks, and kite-flying. It is the 2nd year of the commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial and themed tours, costumed interpretation, Civil war lawn games and a mini encampment are planned. Other popular programs will return like vintage baseball and Berklee concerts. Music programming will continue on Spectacle and Georges and on a smaller scale on Peddocks Island. The Native American festival will happen on Peddocks Island this year.

Boston Light trips will have a new departure point on Central Wharf. This should really increase the visibility of the program and offer more opportunities for walk ups. Rebecca said two free ferry days are scheduled. Rangers will run tours daily on the islands, and there will be regular weekly programming including Plays in the Park, coastline explorations, Let's Move Mondays, Toddler Tuesdays, and Science Sundays. She announced a couple upcoming programs, Park Serve Day and Junior Ranger Day on April 21, and the 5k and Fun Run on June 2. Stay tuned for details on a Nesting Bird Cruise on June 3.

Green Action Team

Marc Albert, NPS, presented recommendations from the Green Action Team (GAT) for Partnership approval. The Partners discussed the stated need of the team to have closer alliances with decision makers and better access to hard data of carbon emissions. A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Green Action Team. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Partners expressed their commitment to the project and offered to work with GAT to achieve their goals.

Marc Albert announced NPS received funding for a seasonal employee to focus on solid waste and recycling planning.

Planning Committee

Bruce Jacobson reported the Planning Committee recently met and discussed the designation of gateways. The committee evaluated the Boston harbor Islands Pavilion as a potential gateway. It failed to meet four criteria: municipal endorsement, long-term docking facilities, identity, and visitor amenities. The partners discussed.

Charlie Norris said that Boston Redevelopment Authority does have ownership control of Long Wharf and should be able to help with both signage and long-term dockage issues. Antonia Pollak said that Long Wharf is a complicated site as far as ownership and use, BRA issues long-term leases, and there are many existing permit and policy hurdles.

The Partners discussed if official designation required since there is the perception that the Pavilion is a gateway. Antonia Pollak said that this same issue also comes up at Hingham, as the same criteria are not met. There was general agreement that the criteria were important for long term security. Bruce offered to reach out to BRA and report back.

MBTA ferry service elimination

The Partners discussed the proposed ferry service cuts by Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and recognized that there would severe consequences for the islands. The Partnership directed Bruce Jacobson to prepare a letter to the MBTA on behalf of the Partnership. The letter will be distributed to Partners for review and the Chair will sign.

Artists-In-Residence Program

Bruce Jacobson distributed information on an NPS Artist-In-Residence Program, and background information on art programming on Boston Harbor islands. He asked the Partners to review the information and consider if an official program should be launched at the park, and if so, what model of management would be best suited, which agency should manage?

Designation of Committee Members

Bruce Jacobson distributed a list of Partnership Committees that included Committee Chair responsibilities. He asked all partners to designate staff to participate in each committee, Park Operations, Planning, Finance & Legislation, Getting Youth to the Islands, Marketing & Public Relations, and Nominating & Bylaws. Staff designated should be able to speak for the agency.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-chair, said that the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council held their annual meeting on March 7, 2012. Peter Rosen, Northeastern University, presented a talk: "Boston Harbor - Rising Sea Level and Drowned Drumlins."

Public Comment

There was no further public comment.

The meeting was adjourned.