

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA  
March 18, 2014, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Attendees:** Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Jane Ellis and Phil Griffiths—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Chris Cook—City of Boston; Jack Murray and Susan Kane—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Stuart Dalzell and Andrew Hargens—Massachusetts Port Authority; Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Giles Parker—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC).

Arthur Pearson, Chair, welcomed all and called the meeting to order. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2014, meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

**State of the Park**

Marc Albert, NPS invited all to the upcoming State of the Park Workshop on April 10 and 11. He reminded all the purpose of the workshop was to develop a plain language snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of park's priority resources and values. The report will provide a quantifiable set of measures that can be used to track resource conditions in the future, and that also highlights key management accomplishments, issues, and challenges. The report should be useful as a justification for funding requests. Marc requested that Partners to send content experts on natural and cultural resources, visitor experience, and park infrastructure to both days of the workshop and encouraged them to attend the Friday session.

**Water Transportation**

Phil Griffiths said that he was pleased to announce that Boston Harbor Cruises (BHC) accepted the transfer of the lease for use of the dock at Long Wharf North and will be the water transportation provider for the park through 2017. BHC will provide larger boats to expand capacity.

Managers are still working out details of the schedule. There will be no Quincy runs, but managers are working on providing departures from Hingham on some commuter boats. Phil reminded all that there will not be a significant subsidy provided this year, so it remains a challenge to maintain adequate service to the camping islands.

Alison Nolan, BHC, said she was pleased BHC is once again providing service to the islands and looks forward to partnering with the park. She said that Boston Harbor Cruises is contributing a \$100k in dedicated marketing of the park. Ferries start running on May 10, and service will increase for the summer season on June 20.

Jack Murray commended Phil Griffiths, Jane Ellis, Giles Parker, Susan Kane, and Alison Nolan for all their work on getting the contract and details together. He added that Boston Harbor Cruises is truly grounded in the harbor community and does great work. He is looking forward to a great year.

Jack mentioned that the Summer Shack contract also came to an end. Jane Ellis said that Rita's Catering has operated as a family owned business since the 1950's and introduced Emil Grosso and Meaghan Light. Emil said they are excited to begin preparing for the season, and have not yet finalized menus, but Rita's will provide lunch/snacks at the visitor centers, clambakes, boxed lunches, and other catering needs.

## **2014 Programming**

Hugh Hawthorne, NPS, said that for this coming season the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion will be rebranded as Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center to address assessment showing that the name creates confusion for the visitor. He said managers are also rethinking and working collaboratively on operations, signage, and use of space at the site. The Eastern National gift store will not operate out of the Welcome Center next year, but they will continue retail operations on Georges and Spectacle Islands.

Hugh said event planning is well underway for the coming season. Ranger tours and many popular programs are returning, as well as new programming with an emphasis on physical fitness. Giles Parker said that this will be Hugh's last Partnership meeting, as Hugh has accepted a position as Superintendent of Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument.

## **Boston Light Update**

Sally Snowman, USCG, said that the U.S. Coast Guard has secured \$1.1M from the Lighthouse Preservation Fund to prepare for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boston Light in 2016. A variety of infrastructure improvements are planned for the tower, keeper's house, outbuildings, and other systems. The work is scheduled to begin in April 2014 and conclude by the end of September 2014.

Sally announced that Little Brewster Island will not be open for Boston Light tours this season because of the complex construction schedule, but they plan to resume in 2015—and will be well prepared for the celebration in 2016. She reminded all of the other anniversaries that also happen in 2016. It is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Park Service and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

## **Marketing**

Mike Dyer, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, distributed a marketing strategy for the park (attached) and walked through the first year actions of the three year strategy. A focus was on the use of the national brand of the NPS arrowhead in the run up to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NPS in 2016, while respecting the park logo and the partners. Giles Parker thanked Mike for his efforts and engaged the Partners to reactivate the Marketing Committee in order to discuss this and other topics by assigning a representative to the committee. He said one of the first discussion topics will be how best to utilize the park logo along with partner logos as well as the NPS arrowhead.

## **Advisory Council**

Charles Norris, said Council's held its annual meeting on March 5. He said that Bob Page and Margie Coffin-Brown from NPS gave a presentation about youth engagement project on Peddocks Island. The council activated a Nominating and Bylaws Committee to address some procedural and technical issues. There are several vacancies on the Council and they are looking for new members.

## **Other Business**

Charles Norris said that MBTA is putting the Quincy Shipyard Terminal up for sale, and consolidating the commuter boat traffic from the south shore; commuter boats will depart now from Hingham.

## **Public Comment**

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced a trip to Rainsford Island May 17 and invited all to the Friends Annual Meeting on May 18.

The meeting was adjourned.