

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
March 17, 2015, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Rob Moir and Elizabeth Solomon—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Rebecca Smerling for Phil Griffiths—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Rich McGuinness—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Austin Blackmon —City of Boston; Susan Kane and Commissioner Jack Murray—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Andrew Hargens —Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Fred Laskey and Marianne Connolly—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Giles Parker—National Park Service (NPS); CDR Marc Knowlton—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Commissioner Murray, Vice Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all. A quorum was present. He extended condolences to Phil Griffiths who lost his father and was not able to attend today's meeting.

There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2015, meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Park Updates

Susan Kane said the harsh winter has made it difficult to get to the islands to keep tabs on all of the buildings. She said the operations crew continues to assess the damage. Jack Murray said the floats in Squantum were damaged and gave thanks to BHIA for their help ordering a new gangway.

Long Island Bridge

Para Jayasinghe, City of Boston, gave an update on the status of the Long Island Bridge Project. He said the bridge was shut down on October 8th and that demolition work is scheduled to be completed in about 6 weeks. Utility service to Spectacle Island has been disrupted, and the city is working with DCR to get it restored. Para said DCR has a temporary plan in place to provide potable water from the water tower on Long Island and provide electric service with a generator, but it is extremely costly. The City of Boston is committed to restoring utility lines.

Boston Harbor Islands Complex RMP

Jim Baeker, DCR, said that work on a resource management plan for the Boston Harbor Islands Complex began last fall. He said DCR has been working closely with National Park Service and other partners on gathering information to inform the process. He said there was a public forum held in December also, and that a draft document should be available by end of May or early June. A one-month public comment period will be held at that time.

Elizabeth Solomon asked if there were plans to gather additional public input since the last meeting had low attendance due to poor weather. Jim invited any and all comments to come to him and offered to have another meeting if needed. He said they are happy to hold a public forum upon request, and suggested it be done in the public comment period, once the draft is available.

Water Transportation

Phil Griffiths passed out a sheet of summarizing ferry service, food concessions, retail and marina operations for 2015. He said expanded ferry service was negotiated that will increase capacity and frequency of service. Discounted rates were added to the fare structure and discounted programs were expended. Jack reminded all that Boston Harbor Cruises is operating without the subsidy that

had historically been provided for the interisland shuttle, and that fares are still a great price when compared with other similar services.

Rebecca Smerling, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, said that the library pass program was expanded and offers opportunities “buy one get one free” tickets. She said the free access trips are also serving more people than ever. Boston Harbor Island Alliance has been successful getting grant funding to support youth trips and free ferry days and the free ferry passes are fully utilized.

Elizabeth Solomon asked how free tickets were distributed and if data was available on how they are utilized. Rebecca said that it is a needs-based program and that underserved youth have priority. She is happy to provide a report.

Little Brewster Island

CDR Marc Knowlton said that there was much to coordinate in the harbor between the high profile case at the courthouse and the bridge work. He added that this winter they had dealt with the worst ice system seen in decades, and described some of the conditions and efforts needed to keep the port open for deliveries, particularly the fuel ships. CDR Knowlton announced that Boston Light Tours will resume this summer and he thanked NPS and BHIA for all their efforts.

Other Business

Giles Parker played a video about the transformation of the Peddocks Island chapel that was completed with the help of the apprentices of the New England Carpenters Training Fund.

Mary Raczko, National Park Service, gave an update on board membership.

Giles announced that he will be doing a temporary detail as Deputy Superintendent of Boston National Historical Park. He introduced Ruth Raphael who will be Acting Superintendent of Boston Harbor Islands.

Advisory Council

Elizabeth Solomon, Chair, said the Council held its annual meeting last week and that she was re-elected Chair and Kelly Hurstak continues as Vice-Chair. She said that a subcommittee is working on a survey that will help inform the Council on how to get more people involved in the park.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh said that the Osher Life Long Learning Institute is now on its 6th year of exploring Boston Harbor Islands. She also invited all on a Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands boat cruise to Rainsford Island on May 9th. Rebecca Smerling, BHIA, added that Junior Ranger Day will be held on April 18 on Georges Island and Park Service Day on April 24 at Webb State Park and Gateway Park in Hingham.

The meeting was adjourned.