

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Rob Moir, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all. The minutes of the December 5, 2012, meeting were approved. Council members and audience members introduced themselves.

Rob presented awards to Suzanne Gall Marsh, Pat Morss, and Karen O'Donnell for their steadfast participation in the work of the Advisory Council since the inaugural years, and their commitment to the islands. Carl Johnson is also an award recipient, but was not present to receive the award.

The Chair's opening remarks included a presentation on what it means to work in "partnership" at Boston Harbor Islands, that gave insight into how USCG and NPS work together to cooperatively manage Little Brewster Island. Rob highlighted the importance of trust building, honesty, respect, and forgiveness in the partnering process.

**Boston Light—Past, Present & Future**

Sally Snowman gave a presentation about the history of Little Brewster Island and Boston Light trips. The presentation is attached and can be found as a PDF file (5.4MB) at:  
<http://go.nps.gov/Boston-Light-Presentation-2013>.

Council members asked how private boaters can visit Little Brewster Island. Sally said there are no docking facilities for private boats, but drop off is permitted (subject to staff availability), between 10am - 5pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during mid-June to early October. She suggested arriving between the public tour times around 12:30 pm and to avoid the late afternoons if possible. She reminded all that they cannot guarantee access to climb the tower, and try to accommodate as many boaters as they can, but that there are island capacity limits to consider, and the public tours do have priority. Sally requested that boaters contact a park ranger at 617.223.8666 on the day that they wish to visit, so that they can notify Little Brewster Island of the request.

**Election of Officers**

Pat Morss announced the Nominating Committee's recommendations for officers, Rob Moir for Chair and Maureen Cavanaugh as Vice-Chair. Pat asked if there were any nominations from the floor; there were none. A motion was made to accept the slate as proposed. **The motion was unanimously accepted.**

**Membership**

A motion was made to recommend Elizabeth Solomon as a member in the Native American Interest Group. **The motion was unanimously accepted.** The superintendent gave his approval, and the recommendation for appointment will be sent to the Director of the National Park Service for consideration.

Mary Raczko, NPS, gave a membership update. There are now 6 vacancies on the council as follows: 3 in the Community interest group, 1 in the Native American interest group, and 2 in Municipalities, as well as a Partnership position to be filled.

### **Ask the Superintendent**

Bruce Jacobson reminded all that the Boston University Graduate Seminar took on a project to review the park's general management plan, a mid-season review is scheduled later in the month, and Advisory Council is hosting a "GMP Workshop" on Monday, May 13, where the students will present their findings and their proposal for plan revisions.

Bruce responded to several questions.

- Sequestration went into effect last Friday. Department of Interior, like many federal agencies, is required to cut 5% across the board from their budget. Boston Harbor Islands is required to cut 5% from the budget. The park does not expect to furlough any full-time employees. The federal budget cuts will affect cooperative agreements and seasonal staffing levels. NPS seasonal job postings have closed, and applications are under review. There is still a hiring freeze in effect for federal full-time staff, but the seasonal freeze was lifted. Fewer NPS summer seasonals will be hired, and one full-time open position for an administrative clerk will not be filled. It is hoped that Boston Light trips will continue although scheduling/staffing levels may need to be adjusted.
- There is no progress to report on planning for the 2016 anniversaries (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boston Harbor Islands becoming a national park, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Park Service, or the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boston Light).
- Bruce explained that the ferries to Georges and Spectacle Islands operate without subsidy, but the interisland shuttle service requires one. The state has funded the shuttle for several years, and that this year, it is not expected that the same level of subsidy will be received. DCR has asked the Water Transportation Sub-Committee to find a less costly, more targeted approach to service. Park managers are working Boston's Best Cruises to finalize the schedule and fares for the 2013 season. Bruce invited Council members interested in the topic to attend Operations Committee meetings. Rob Moir encouraged Council members participate in all park meetings.
- Reservations for yurt, tent, and group camping sites on Peddocks Island are open.

### **New Business**

Susanne Gall Marsh requested that DCR Harbor Region Supervisor be invited to the next meeting in March.

Hugh Hawthorne invited all to the Getting Youth to the Island Committee that will be held on March 28.

### **Public Comment**

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said they had a table at the New England Boat Show and that the number one question was how to get on the islands, and boaters expressed frustration with both the access and the lack of information.

National Park Service and Boston Harbor Island Alliance offices will be moving to 15 State Street at the end of April.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
3/6/13 Meeting Attendees

## MEMBERS PRESENT (X)

1. John Anderson	<b>X</b>
2. Jennifer Bender	
3. Nancy Callanan	
4. Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-Chair	<b>X</b>
5. Lou Gainor	
6. Megan Glenn	
7. Walter Hope	<b>X</b>
8. Mel Harris	<b>X</b>
9. Carl Johnson	
10. Rick Kasseli	
11. Dale Linder	<b>X</b>
12. Jim Martel	
13. Rob Moir, Chair	<b>X</b>
14. Charlie Norris	<b>X</b>
15. Jim Peters	<b>X</b>
16. Bill Reardon	<b>X</b>
17. Peter Rosen	
18. Jay Schmidt	<b>X</b>
19. Elizabeth Solomon	<b>X</b>
20. Lauri Webster	
21. Matt Wolfe	<b>X</b>
22. Vacant Seat, Community	
23. Vacant Seat, Community	
24. Vacant Seat, Community	
25. Vacant Seat, Municipalities	
26. Vacant Seat, Municipalities	
27. Vacant Seat, Native American	
28. Vacant Seat, Native American	

\*pending member

OTHERS PRESENT

[illegible]

BHIA – Boston Harbor Island Alliance  
DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation  
NPS – National Park Service  
TIOBEC-Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center

**\*\*Emeritus Council Member**