



THE NAVY YARD NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

Summer 2013

Boston dodges super storm, prepares for next time

The Boston Harbor Association (TBHA) had been studying sea level rise in Boston when Super Storm Sandy hit New York and New Jersey on October 29-31 last year. They rewrote the report after that storm, said Julie Wormser, executive director of TBHA. Ms. Wormser spoke to a Navy Yard audience on May 29 noting that storm waters rose 13 feet above Battery Park in lower Manhattan while downtown Boston largely escaped flooding.

Credit Boston's escape with lucky timing. The storm hit here at low tide, between two historically high tides. But the lesson from the Mid-Atlantic States was drummed home. The 80-page TBHA report, *Preparing for the Rising Tide*, was issued in February with several clear messages for Boston. It first identifies areas most vulnerable to storms and sea level rise. Then it provides guidance for dealing with risks; and finally, it proposes flexible and cost effective solutions by public agencies, private property owners, and individuals. It embraces the concepts of resilience and adaptation over prevention.

The abstract states, "Current models predict that Boston will experience up to two feet of sea level rise by 2050 and up to six feet by 2100. Planning and preparing for this growing threat will save money and prevent disruption of people's lives and livelihoods. This report provides vulnerability analyses for Boston Harbor and time-phased preparedness plans ... to increase ... resilience to coastal flooding over time."

Among initiatives by the City of Boston are the creation of a broad task force and a Boston Redevelopment Authority



High-tide during Storm Sandy at Sargent's Wharf on the downtown waterfront (Downloaded from NorthEndWaterfront.com)

(BRA) survey of waterfront buildings, properties, and related areas which are vulnerable to sea level rise. A climate action plan will be developed in 2014, with specific and concrete strategies and actions for climate preparedness. Also, the Boston Conservation Commission will develop a new ordinance with best practices for waterfront properties to protect against storm surges, with new flood plain maps.

In Charlestown Navy Yard, a forum is planned for October 18 to engage the public in actions that prepare for sea level rise and floods.

Shipyard Quarters Marina makes small repairs



Patches of new boardwalk were constructed at Shipyard Quarters Marina at Pier 8 in response to the City's demands for safety improvements. Large scale improvements have not been made.

Shipyard Quarters Marina, at Piers 6 and 8 (SQM), is feeling the heat of local and state authorities to make repairs and maintain SQM and the HarborWalk under its control. In December 2012, the Boston Conservation Commission issued to SQM an enforcement order to make necessary repairs or face daily fines up to \$25,000. Also, the Boston Inspectional Services Department filed a complaint against SQM in Housing Court in July 2012; this matter is unresolved and has been continued several times. In addition, the Attorney General's office has apparently exercised its jurisdiction and has become involved. City Councilor Sal La Mattina has been an especially vocal advocate for the community, appearing at several hearings on its behalf.

Despite all the regulatory pressure, little work has been performed at SQM or on the HarborWalk. For example, the breakwater dock on Pier 8 has been closed for two years since pilings fell down and the dock was declared unsafe. Friends of

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS BRIEFS

Cassin Young moves temporarily to East Boston

After major repairs to the hull of USS Cassin Young, the National Park Service has moved the World War II destroyer to a temporary berth across the harbor. The transfer was noted on the USS Cassin Young Volunteers Facebook page: "Sad Day, June 3 2013, USS Cassin Young is being moved out of the Charlestown Navy Yard for the first time in 30 Years.... She is being moved to a temporary berth in East Boston...."

The ship entered dry dock in August 2010, but by last summer, it was clear that major repairs were needed. When federal funding was acquired, the hull was made ready for moving. Meanwhile, her berth at Pier 1 is being repaired; it will be ready for her move back to Charlestown Navy Yard later this summer. Dry Dock 1 will be ready for USS Constitution's overhaul next year, a project expected to take up to three years.



She's left Charlestown for a while! USS Cassin Young was moved to East Boston while repairs on her Navy Yard berth were being made. Dry Dock 1 is being readied for USS Constitution in 2014.

Voter turnout anemic

Overall voting in the special senate election was predictably low – only about 20 percent. Charlestown Navy Yard is part of Ward 2, Precinct 2, where 530 people voted. Edward Markey won in the precinct with 63 percent to 36 percent for Gabriel Gomez. He will be seated soon as the new Massachusetts' junior senator.

FRIENDS CORNER

Watch for FCNY email notifications

For the past few months, FCNY has been using email to great advantage to announce public meetings and important and timely Navy Yard news. To get on the mailing list, send an email to info@friendscny.org, and please sign up for annual membership while you are at it.

Summer events entertain all ages

"The Singing Trooper" and Magician Marc held forth for about 100 people, despite rain, at Shipyard Park on June 26. The concert with magic show was hosted by the Friends and Charlestown Mothers Association. Other Navy Yard events are planned:

- Three concerts sponsored by the National Park Service at the Commandant's House with musicians from Berklee College of Music on July 11, playing jazz; July 18 with bluegrass; and July 25 presenting Latin music.
- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital will have an open house and "family fun day" on July 20.
- Harvard Alumni Jazz Band will play at Shipyard Park on August 15.
- Fireworks over the harbor will be launched on August 31.

THE NAVY YARD NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

PUBLISHER EDITOR
Michael Parker Barbara Mackey

Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard
CHAIRPERSON Michael W. Parker
PRESIDENT Lois Siegelman
TREASURER David M. Whelan
SECRETARY Margaret Coughlin

DIRECTORS
Becky Atkinson Marion Dancy Cullen Barbara Mackey
Ryan Bendell Karen Dempsey Carney John Moore
Peter Borré Kate Fillo Doug Pope
Richard F. Burt Alexis Finneran Tkachuk Terry Savage
Cassius Cash Kira Jacobs Jean Tochtermann
Karen Colombosian Terry Kennedy Elaine Vigneau

P.O. Box 290787, Charlestown, MA 02129
www.friendscny.org info@friendscny.org

For membership information, please visit the website or send an e-mail.

The organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT

Starboard Place, a/k/a Parcel 39A



Developer's rendering of Starboard Place on First Avenue.

The Kavanaugh Advisory Group has proposed a four-story rental building on the long-vacant land at First Avenue and 9th Street to house 54 units. In community meetings over the winter, key objections were to the lack of on-site parking. Kavanaugh and the BRA plan for park-

ing at the MGH garage on Third Avenue. No further public information has been issued since the CNC approved the plan in February. Stay tuned.

Shipyard Park splash pad

The fountain at Shipyard Park stopped flowing last summer due to BRA concerns regarding safety. A fence was installed to keep people and dogs out of the untreated water, and a promise was made to replace the water feature. As of the end of June, a revised proposal to locate a new 30' x 30' diamond-shaped children's splash pad next to a sandpit at the park, was presented to the community. The community was divided over whether the splash pad is preferable to fixing the fountain.

Friends Corner

(Continued from page 2)

Winter Warm-Up recognizes leadership

FCNY holds an annual wintertime event to recognize people for their contributions to Charlestown and the Navy Yard. This year board member Jennifer Tegfeldt was recognized for 10 years of legal effort to extend HarborWalk behind Building 114.

Michael Parker, FCNY chairman, recognized her tenacity and her legal talent. The result this spring is a cantilevered walkway which doubles



Jennifer Tegfeldt

After listening to arguments from both sides, the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) approved the proposal. The BRA predicts that the splash pad will be ready in time for next summer.

Proposed Rope Walk building development

A developer has presented plans at recent community meetings for the rehabilitation of the Rope Walk building into rental units. Frontier Enterprises, led by Joseph Timilty, received BRA tentative designation and has proposed 68 market-rate townhouse rental units and a small museum. The developer's proposal to cut multiple doors in the walls would appear to compromise the building's historical value.

According to Cassius Cash, superintendent of Boston National Historical Park, the building is one of only four rope walk buildings remaining in the world, and the only one in the United States. The building runs for a quarter of a mile inside the Navy Yard fence on Chelsea Street. Vacant since the Navy left in 1976, the Rope Walk is a National Historic Landmark that carries restrictions to protect the building's historic value. It is currently owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) but is subject to the requirements of historic properties as mandated by National Park Service (NPS) legislation.

All parties would like to see it used rather than decay, but the challenges are formidable. Most residents focus on the lack of available parking; the NPS requires that historic integrity be maintained; the BRA supports economic development. Despite the plans to alter the Rope Walk, the developer is expecting to receive federal and state historic tax credits.

as the aquatic center for Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

This year's event, attended by about 100 people, was held at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Building 149 on March 28 with refreshments and music.

Safety discussed in Navy Yard

Four speakers invited to discuss safety in the Navy Yard on June 20 reported that Charlestown is one of the safest neighborhoods in the city.

The speakers were Sergeant Tom Lema, District A-1 Community Service Supervisor, from the Boston Police Department; Rebecca Coburn, Manager of the MGH Police and Security in the Charlestown Navy Yard; Mark Dowdle, Chief Park Ranger from the Boston National Historical Park; and Lieutenant Daniel Grossman from the Sector Boston Coast Guard.

To maintain continued vigilance and encourage self-protection, discussion produced a plan for a women's self-defense class to be held in the Navy Yard, sponsored by FCNY and the Kennedy Center.

Spaulding is a high-profile neighbor

Seldom has a new neighbor attracted the public attention that Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital has received. Patients were moved there from the old facility on Nashua Street in April shortly after some victims of the Boston Marathon bombing had begun inpatient rehab activities. News trucks and reporters covering the progress of the Marathon victims swarmed 16th Street for weeks, shining a glowing light on a facility whose design is open and inviting.

With warm weather, patients are seen peddling adaptive cycles along HarborWalk, walking with assistants and wheel chairs, and appearing to relish their new neighborhood. The aquatic center has been busy on good weather days, taking inpatients and outpatients onto adaptive boats in Boston Harbor.

Neighbors enjoy strolling around the landscaped grounds at all hours. Notable in the landscape is a remarkable sprawling granite sculpture by Sterling McMurrin, called *Journey to Epidaurus*, using huge blocks recovered from the site.

*Spaulding's Aquatic Center and HarborWalk to Chelsea Street, top;
Spaulding cyclists on HarborWalk, middle;
"Journey to Epidaurus" granite art by Sterling McMurrin, bottom.*



New playground at Yard's End

The City has proposed a new park with equipment designed for disabled children and adults on Parcel 5, next to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. It is part of a city-wide \$1.8 billion capital improvement program. The new park, at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million, will be open to children and adults of all abilities and designed with belted swings, infant seats, rubberized surfaces, and carousel slots for wheel chairs.

Marina *(Continued from page 1)*

Charlestown Navy Yard (FCNY) will continue to advocate for the much needed repairs to be performed in the near future. Check the FCNY website for updates on this vexing issue at <http://www.friendscny.org>.



Piling down, an example of Pier 8's decline. Pilings have been falling for two years, most remaining unrepaired.

Handy links to stay in touch with neighborhood activities:

North End Waterfront weekly
<http://www.northendwaterfront.com>

BRA weekly email
<http://bostonredevelopmentauthoritynews.org>

Mayor's hot line
<http://www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/24/>

Charlestown Patch, daily newsletter
<http://charlestown.patch.com>

Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard
<http://www.friendscny.org/>