

From: Info MattLandtrust [info@mattlandtrust.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:43 AM
To: Comments, Rmp (DCR)
Subject: Fort Phoenix Resource Management Plan

Greetings,

As President of the MLT, I represent an unofficial friends group for Nasketucket Bay State Reservation. I would have planned to attend Wednesday's meeting but we had previously scheduled a Vernal Pool Workshop for that evening. I will watch the video later, but I would like the meeting to address the following questions for Nasketucket Bay:

- Will there be a management plan to keep the large field open by cutting it on a regular schedule. Without regular cutting it will be dominated by invasives, especially multiflora, and eventually trees and we will lose meadow habitat.
- Will any action be taken to reduce phragmites? I know the shoreline is an intractable problem, but phrag is also taking over the vernal pools and I believe that is a small enough problem to be addressed.

Thanks for your consideration. Wish I could be there.

Gary

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Gary P. Johnson
President
Mattapoissett Land Trust, Inc.

From: M.L. Baron [mlbaron525@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 9:26 PM
To: Comments, Rmp (DCR)
Subject: photos Fairhaven meeting

Compliments MLBaron westislandweather.com

WEST ISLAND STATE RESERVATION SITE

WEST ISLAND STATE RESERVATION / TOWN BEACH SITE

From: M.L. Baron [mlbaron525@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 9:45 AM
To: dcr
Subject: DCR meeting

[LINK to FaceBook DCR Meeting Fairhaven](#)

From: lcabral@srpedd.org [lcabral@srpedd.org]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 3:10 PM

To: Updates, Dcr (DCR); Comments, Rmp (DCR)

Cc: pmission@srpedd.org

Subject: Fort Phoenix RMP

The staff of SRPEDD, as well as I, as a resident of Fairhaven, respectfully submit the following comments:

We'd like to suggest some coordinated planning between the DCR with the town of Fairhaven or MassDOT to extend the Fairhaven Phoenix Bike Trail to Fort Phoenix, possibly via Laurel Street to Green Street. This could be accomplished with pavement markings, such as shared lane or 'sharrow' markings along the roadway.

This could also be accomplished along Brandt Island Road in Mattapoisett to make that section of the completed rail trail accessible to the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, which is utilized by mountain bikers.

Please find attached two map versions of our suggested routes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional assistance.

Thank you,
Lilia

Lilia Cabral
Senior Transportation Planner
SRPEDD
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508 824-1367 ph
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SRPEDD 2011 Draft Regional Transportation Plan-Bicycle Recommendations



From: Barbara Veneri [mailto:bveneri@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 12:56 PM
To: Updates, Dcr (DCR)
Subject: Fairhaven, MA Resource Management Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

After reading a report of the recent hearing in Fairhaven regarding resource management for the Nasketucket Bay, Fort Phoenix, and West Island State reservations, I would like to make my opinions known.

While I have enjoyed recreation, both active and passive, at Fort Phoenix and West Island, I have not yet enjoyed a hike or walk in the Nasketucket Bay area, and I would like to. At Fort Phoenix, I have enjoyed the beach, dog walking, walking and bicycling along the path to the dike opening, participating as a volunteer rower and helper for the New Bedford Harbor swim (Coalition for Buzzards Bay) over the 25 years since I moved to the area. At West Island, in addition to enjoying the town beach on and off season, I have hiked the trails in the reservation many times since before the state took over management of the area. I have hiked along the beach area to North Point and in the other direction until the beach trails become too wet or hazardous to walk, about a mile or two from the north end of the West Island beach area. I have hiked there on and off season, with and without my dog. I have enjoyed the beaches there, accessing them both by land and by sea (I have owned more than one sailboat and have sailed to West Island aboard my own and other people's boats for more than 25 years).

These areas should remain protected for non-invasive recreation, that is, for hiking, walking, picnicking for those who can walk in, rowing, kayaking, sailing, or motoring to the islands. I firmly oppose opening any of these areas to motorized vehicles, period. I think the state should become involved only to maintain existing trails or, in the case of the Nasketucket Bay area, to open trails that may be overgrown or impassable for walking or hiking.

If there is any plan to open either West Island or Nasketucket Bay to more invasive types of recreations, such as off-road vehicles or motorized vehicles, I firmly oppose it. Even jet-skis make too much noise for the wildlife at West Island, but more recent efforts on the part of the PWD industry to make quieter vehicles seems to have paid off.

As for Fort Phoenix, recent improvements to the play area and the main parking area seem to have improved access to the beach. I think that, basically, dog walkers should be encouraged to pick up after their pets, but still allowed to walk their pets at Fort Phoenix in the off season. During the summer beach-going season, I think pet owners should be discouraged from bringing pets to the beach during the day. I think Fort Phoenix and the surrounding areas should be maintained, but that no upgrades are necessary at this time, other than to keep the beach sandy and useful for beach goers (the tide uncovers bedsprings, wooden ties, and other obstructions that should be removed to prevent injuries to beach goers and swimmers). I think the area should remain off limits to three-wheelers, ATVs, motorbikes and other noisy vehicles. I think the number of motorcycle rallies at Fort Phoenix should be limited, unless motorcycle owners can quiet their vehicles. These rallies are very noisy and disturbing to people along the streets leading to the beach, and the constant revving of engines is unnecessary and avoidable.

Why is it that I get a ticket or worse if my motor vehicle exhaust system has a hole in the muffler or a broken or missing muffler, but motorcycles are exempt from noise abatement? This is unfair to drivers and listeners alike. Motorcycle owners should muffle their vehicles and turn them off

while at the beach. Otherwise, I would recommend laws to prevent unnecessary noise should be put into effect.

Thank you.

Barbara Veneri
Fairhaven, MA 02719

From: M.L. Baron [mlbaron525@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 9:00 AM

To: frwnlist@umassd.edu; theadvocatene newspaper@yahoo.com; Jeff Vercellone; jpetner928@rcn.com; aag2@comcast.net; Ambient Weather; Carolyn Longworth; cbrown@s-t.com; Brian Fraga; Frank McKinnon; gary golas; hunteralmond@yahoo.com; mike mccormack; matthew mcgee; necn; dcr; s.feijo531@gmail.com

Subject: Vintage Hurricane Photo Albums Now Available on The Web

Vintage Hurricane Photo Albums Now Available on The Web

by MLBaron / westislandweather.com

WEST ISLAND: For those who have an old hurricane photo album tucked away in the attic, you can leave it there for now. Westislandweather.com has added an exciting new feature with most of the popular hurricane books now on line. Some selected books include one of New Bedford's earliest known hurricane souvenir photo albums: "The Worst Storm in New Bedford's History" 1924 - in which the last square rigged American Whaleship "The Wanderer" ran aground and was lost off Cuttyhunk, (published by Reynolds The Printer, NB,) The 1938 Hurricane, The Hurricane of 1944, and "Hurricane!" 1954 with pictures from Carol and Edna published by The Standard-Times. Some other rare publications include The New Haven Railroad restoration efforts after the '38 Hurricane. The Aerovox and Acushnet Process companies also produced booklets for Hurricane Carol in 1954. The photos can be enlarged to full screen or automatically put into a slide show. This new section on the West Island Weather Station's web site augments the recent feature of the history of The Hurricane Barrier and the 45th anniversary of its completion on May 21, 1966.

"I think it's important now more than ever that hurricane awareness and its immense power be addressed by those who've never been in a hurricane. The last major hurricane to impact Southern New England was Hurricane Bob on August 19, 1991. These hurricane books are a stark reminder as to what could be in store for us again. A recent study has shown that 90% of those living along the coast have yet to experience a major hurricane." MLBaron says.

The 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st."

The direct link to the hurricane photo album directory :

<http://www.westislandweather.com/hurricanephotoalbums.htm>

From: lbarteau@comcast.net [mailto:lbarteau@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 1:23 PM
To: Updates, DCR (DCR)
Cc: mlbaron525@hotmail.com
Subject: Further thoughts on West Island for the planning process

Thank you again for seeking our input.

In the meeting I spoke up about the practice of hunting with bait along Fir St. I would like to add a few other thoughts and concerns to the process.

1. There would be considerably less open space conserved if local folks hadn't stopped development at both Nasketucket (Ruth Bates) and West Island (M.L. Baron). I came away from the meeting thinking that their opinions and thoughts should carry significant weight in any planning process. I further think that the groups of local people involved should be honored in some way for their work preserving green space on the South Coast, which is in a race to be developed right now.
2. The health of the marshes contributes to the health of the Bay. The health of the marshes depend on the health of the woodlands leading to their edges. These properties are both extremely environmentally important to keep as pristine as possible. I believe most strongly that every decision made about these places should be made without further disturbance to the marshes and woodlands. It is extremely easy to let public spaces be degraded through use of machines, herbicides, pesticides, overuse, parking lots, bathrooms and concession stands etc. etc. What is far more difficult is to return anything to its more pristine state environmentally. It is a lot harder to clean up than to prevent soiling in the first place. Please protect these spaces for our health, for clean water and clean air.
3. I believe it is time to re-visit hunting in these areas. I heard a lot of concern in the meeting. Not that we are ever that reasonable but could we have clearer rules and a shorter season? A compromise? I believe October to March is too long for the many users who don't hunt to have to be concerned about bodily harm. We could also use more DEP patrols especially during hunting season.
4. I am particularly interested in native plants and their survival, but know they are facing enormous pressures. With the loss of the native plants, the accompanying extinctions of insects, birds, and butterflies are soon to follow. I would like permission to study and photograph the native plants of West Island before they disappear. With the permission of the DCR I would like to start this plant documentation as soon as possible.

Thank you again,

Louise Barteau
West Island
Fairhaven, MA

From: Bill Roth [mailto:broth@fairhaven-ma.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Updates, DCR (DCR)
Subject: Fort Phoenix RMP

As the Planning Director for the Town of Fairhaven I request that you allow with me your draft RMP for the two properties within the Town so I may comment on them.

In addition:

Please consider for Fort Phoenix Reservation to allow an area for Kayakers to launch their boats. This is currently prohibited and allowing it would add to the recreation opportunities of the reservation and allow better access to the water, which is desperately lacking.

*William D. Roth, Jr. AICP
Town of Fairhaven, Planning Director
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(508) 979-4082*

From: jeanne van orman [mailto:jeannevanorman@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Updates, DCR (DCR)
Subject: RMP for Fairhaven's Ft. Phoenix, West Island and Nasketucket Bay Reservations: response from a Fairhaven citizen

Dear Mr. Cavanaugh:

I am pleased to respond to your invitation for public input. I own a property near Ft. Phoenix and another on Nasketucket Bay and serve on the Fairhaven Conservation Commission.

However, the focus of my concern in the future management of these State reservations is that where appropriate there be acknowledgement of the First Settlers presence and specifically their settlement pattern, culture and belief system - before colonization by Europeans.

Why is this important? In my view, recognition in depth of the First Settlers at this particular place is important for four reasons:

- 1) to acknowledge that the Indians who lived here before the Europeans
- 2) to recognize that it was typical for Indians along the SE Massachusetts coast to settle on estuaries
- 3) to recognize the importance of the estuary as a critical part of the ecological system and a prime source of protein for the Indians
- 4) to acknowledge that the pattern of settlement and way of life of the Indians all hinged on their intimate connection with the land and in the case of West Island and Nasketucket Bay, specifically the estuary.

As for the specifics of the local Indians, I refer you to Cora Peirce, a local scholar on local Native Americans. She, as you know, has submitted written testimony to you. My own interest lies in the settlement pattern exemplified here and elsewhere along the Southeastern New England coast. The most important (but not the only) reference for this is Kathleen J. Bragdon and her *Native People of Southern New England 1500-1650*, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1996.

According to Bragdon, it was "the unique characteristics of the estuarine environment... (that) provided the resources for an equally unique human adaptation. Bragdon argues that this unique human adaptation included "stable social groupings numbering probably no more than two hundred people (which) occupied more or less bounded estuarine zones for most or all of the year...*Such regionally based sedentism had not a single bounded village or series of individual 'homesteads' as its focus, but the estuary itself...*" (Emphasis supplied.)

Why should this settlement pattern matter to DCR or to the public? First it is a settlement type uniquely adapted to the estuary and tidal marsh, an ecosystem severely compromised along Buzzards Bay and elsewhere in the U.S. Second, the adaptation by the Native Peoples to the estuary represents a kind of ancient wisdom. Today, we need this kind of wisdom, one which embodies a specific relationship to the land: a relationship radically different from today's paradigm. As Wade Davis argues (*The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*, Toronto, ON: House of Anansi Press, 2009), climate change "has come about because of the consequences of a particular world view." Davis adds that to "deny or exclude from the calculus of governance and economy the costs of violating the biological support systems of life is the logic of delusion."

However the predominant land use pattern prevalent along Buzzards Bay is precisely what Davis decries. But without the public's understanding that there are alternative ways of settling along the water, it will be

most difficult if not impossible to modify that pattern. Therefore I feel DCR has a unique opportunity to enrich citizens' understanding of the value of their estuary and other lands along Buzzards Bay and to alert them to alternative ways of settling along the coast. Oddly, the advent of sea rise may actually help in such an educational endeavor. You are probably aware that Mass Audubon is now measuring sea rise on specific properties on Buzzards Bay. Because of the low lands adjacent to much of Nasketucket Bay, sea rise is not only apparent but is threatening the continued viability of several structures on the Bay.

Perhaps among DCR's educational goals for these properties, one could make explicit the connection between predominant contemporary land use patterns and sea rise and inspire the public to think about alternative land use patterns some of which could reflect Native settlement patterns.

I appreciate being given the opportunity to provide comment to your plans and clearly I've have just touched the surface of a rich topic. If I can be helpful to you in any way, I would be most happy to assist you.

Should you wish to know more of my background, my website is www.planningplaces.com.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Van Orman, AICP

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