



Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Stewardship Council Meeting  
December 5, 2008  
Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, Ma

Meeting Minutes

*Stewardship Councilors in Attendance:* Chair, Dick Cross; Councilors, Frank Frey, Julian Agyeman, Whitney Hatch, Dan Wolf, Michael Dutton, James Van Dyke, Christina Crowley and Henry Lee.

*Public Attendees:* Mike Ryan, Friends of the Fells; Alan French, Bass Circuit Alliance, Inc.; Carl Rosenstein, Friends of Buckley Dunton Lake; Ray Webber, Friends of Robinson State Park; Carol Gilmour, Kathie Breuninger, Feeding Hills; Claudia Hurley, Friends of Robinson State Park; Steve Kaiser, Association of Cambridge Neighborhood; A. Richard Miller, Cochituate State Park Advisory Committee; Bill Boles, Friends of Wompatuck/NEMBA; Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon; Mary Ellen Iorio, Resident of Boxford; Nicole Brown, CRC; Renata Von Tscharne, CRC; Scott Benoit, Grand Trunk Trail Blazers; Sharl Heller, Forest and Parks Friends Network; Ed and Anita Murray, Friends of Breakheart.

*DCR Staff in Attendance:* Commissioner Rick Sullivan, Stephanie Cooper, Jeff Daley, Conrad Crawford, Jim DiMaio, Anthony Guthro, Enzo Polcaro, Marcelle Valentin, Bob O'Connor, Joe Rotondo and Stuart Conner.

I. **Call To Order (1:00 p.m.),**

- a. Chair, Dick Cross introduced Breakheart Supervisor Anthony Guthro and Ranger Enzo Polcaro to the council and public.
  - i. Ranger Polcaro and Supervisor Anthony Guthro discussed the history and the events coming at Breakheart Reservation. Mr. Guthro gave special thanks to the Friends of Breakheart for their contributions and help.

II. **Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Rick Sullivan**

- a. Commissioner Sullivan thanked Ed Murray from the Friends of Breakheart Reservation for their time and contributions.
- b. Commissioner Sullivan mentioned that Acting Director Accelerated Bridge, Jonathan Gulliver will give an update on the Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP) today.
- c. Informed the council and public of DCR's commitment to work on the bridges and reiterated the public process for the bridges currently being worked on and future bridges and bike/pedestrian projects. Bike and pedestrian paths will be an area to be addresses at all ABP public meetings.
- d. On Monday, November 17, 2008, DCR hosted a public meeting at the Museum of Science in Boston regarding the Craigie Drawbridge and Craigie Dam Bridge rehabilitation project. DCR and its consultants shared information on the bridges' condition, the scope of the proposed projects, the benefits of the projects, and the estimated schedule for the construction phases. A subsequent public meeting will be held after the traffic management plans are developed by the construction contractor that will be selected through the upcoming bid solicitation process.
- e. On Wednesday evening, November 12, DCR staff attended a monthly meeting of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association to provide information and respond to questions on the BU Bridge Rehabilitation Project, the Magazine Beach Pool, and the ongoing Magazine Beach site improvements project.
- f. DCR has scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Mt. Greylock Visitors Center to discuss the agency's plans to convert the campground at Mt. Greylock to a hike-in facility beginning with the 2009 camping season.

- g. DCR committed to have Plymouth Portico done by Thanksgiving and succeeded! The formal re-dedication was held on November 14, 2008. Commissioner Sullivan joined Senate President Therese Murray, Representatives and Plymouth town officials for the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating completion of the DCR's Plymouth Rock Portico Rehabilitation Project.
- h. Commissioner Sullivan and DOER Commissioner Phil Giudice hosted an event on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Quabbin Reservoir in Belchertown to celebrate the new biomass facility that is now providing heat for Quabbin administration building. The Quabbin biomass facility is currently being used as a demonstration site for the public to view and see how much oil is being saved. The heating system will displace over 22,000 gallons of fuel oil used for heating. By using locally produced renewable wood fuel, the biomass heating system will save millions of dollars, combat global climate change, contribute to national security, and support the local rural economy.
- i. On Thursday, November 13th, DCR staff convened a meeting of advocates from the disability community to discuss DCR's commitment to full access within its facilities and programs. At the session, held at the Institute for Human Centered Design, participants were updated on DCR's current capital project funding status. Advocates from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy had kind words for Acting Director of Urban Parks, Sam Overton and DCR staff was thanked for the renewed spirit of collaboration and response to the universal access community. A follow up meeting to report on progress is planned.
- j. In a press release announced on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the DCR Blue Hills Ski Area is continuing its commitment to improve snowmaking capability; provide snow sports instruction opportunities and an accessible and affordable skiing experience during the upcoming season. Ski Blue Hills Management LLC, which operates the ski area in Canton under a contract with DCR, is making the improvements which are expected to increase Blue Hills' snowmaking capacity by 40 percent.
- k. On Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Rick Sullivan joined Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, Senator Edward Augustus, Representative John Fresolo, Worcester Councilman Paul Clancy, and over 100 residents at a groundbreaking for improvements to DCR's Dennis F. Shine Memorial Swimming Pool in Worcester. DCR recently announced a \$1.6 million contract to replace the pool and make improvements to the associated facilities. Construction is expected to be completed for the 2009 pool season.

### III. Committee Updates and Meeting Schedules

#### a. **Finance Committee, *Councilor Whitney Hatch***

- i. Councilor Whitney Hatch informed all that the committee has had informal conversations with Patricia Vantine but has not had a chance to meet to discuss the budget, will follow up next month.
  - 1. Commissioner Sullivan noted that Patricia Vantine is ill and could not make the meeting.

#### b. **Policy and Planning Committee**

##### i. **Forestry Update, *Stephanie Cooper*** -

- i. Stephanie Cooper, Chief of Staff gave an update on where we are with the public process and thanked the committee for their commitment and time. Follow this link

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/docs/2009%20Vision%20for%20DCR%20Forests.pdf> to view the working draft for the DCR forests visioning public involvement process. The goals are:

1. Build a practical vision for a balanced approach to the management of DCR forests within the context of all forested land in Massachusetts.
  2. Build public awareness regarding DCR forestry practices as well as forest management practices and programs in other states across the country.
  3. Ensure and demonstrate a coherent and consistent approach to planning for all DCR lands through presentation, discussion and examination of current practices.
- ii. Miss Cooper informed the Council that the committee has engaged a team from UMASS Boston's Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration (MODR) to facilitate the process as a neutral, outside party. Bill Logue, John Goodrich and Lorraine Dellaporta of the MODR team will be the facilitator team. The short-term goal is to develop and shape the design of the public process based on input from stakeholders and others. The MODR team will conduct some phone interviews with some stakeholders beginning in December phone interviews to reach out across the board starting in December. Miss Cooper said that the process is anticipated to include input from a panel of experts, not only with expertise in forestry, but also areas such as ecology, recreation and wildlife habitat.
  - iii. Councilor Henry Lee mentioned that they are draft goals and that is why we want public input. Councilor Lee also mentioned that there have been ongoing discussions and meetings with the committee in regards to the Resource Management Plans, regulatory process and the progression on the public process on forestry. There has been discussion where the agency can put together a system where concerns can be raised and better addressed.

#### IV. **Special Business**

##### **a. Asian Longhorn Beetle Update, *Jeff Daley***

- i. Jeff Daley gave an update that they are moving forward to removing 5,000 host trees. The USDA is stating that many trees are volatile in a 2,000 sq radius; 20,000 trees are estimated to be removed. There is currently \$3 million in the budget to chip the woods which were infected. We are hopeful that we will receive federal funds of about \$38 million to be released soon. There is discussion on replanting to replace those removed. Taking every step to contain the Asian Longhorned Beetle.
- ii. Commissioner Sullivan thanked Jeff Daley for working with the city officials, Lieutenant Governor and constituents of Worcester. A big part of program is replanting vigorously due to the detrimental disaster the ALB caused.
- iii. Councilor Frey asked about containing the disease with replanting. Commissioner Sullivan said the re-planted trees will not be maple which is susceptible to the ALB. Timeframe will be spring & fall. Earliest fall 2009

##### **b. Accelerated Bridge Program Update, *Jonathan Gulliver***

- i. Acting Director of the Accelerated Bridge Program, Jonathan Gulliver gave an overview and update regarding the Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP). Informed all that we are entering the stage of ABP instead of discussing. A Bill was passed to fix and improve our bridges that are in poor shape and structurally deficient. The goal is to stimulate the economy and create jobs for this program. In the overview presented by Mr. Gulliver a

power point presentation was given. Please click on the link to get more information about the ABP. <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/pdf/ABP%20PPT%201.14.pdf>

- ii. DCR Engineering established an in-house working group in May 2008 to develop an implementation plan specifically for the ABP. The working group secured the pro-bono services of industry experts to aid in the development of the implementation plan organization and management. Where applicable DCR contacted these organizations and has incorporated some of their practices and procedures into the program management organization. The working group produced the framework for the establishment of DCR's Innovative Project Delivery Unit, a special engineering unit that takes the so-called "business-within-a-business" approach to manage the ABP. Wherever possible, the IPD Unit strives to:
  - Achieve the greatest economy and efficiency by avoiding duplication, improving employee productivity, and maximizing program coordination.
  - Maximize accountability of the unit as a whole and in its parts by clearly identifying responsibilities and by imposing a simplified command structure.
  - Streamline the delivery of projects by incorporating focused administrative roles to achieve consistency and efficiency

V. **Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2008**

- a. All council members approved the October 3, 2008 minutes.

VI. **Public Comment**

- a. **Mike Ryan, Friends of the Fells** – Mr. Ryan feels that the approved RMP Forestry plans have two negative processes. One he feels foresters are free to clear cut which raises concerns. Apprehensive that DCR signify not preventing the industrial cuts. Two he feels that we did not consult any foresters on the FRMPs. Mr. Ryan feels the forestry practices are not helpful and should be stopped. Mr. Ryan stated in the FRMP that there was an oversight considered on private lands and inquired why that is. He feels concerned about the public process design to get feedback from the public because the public is ignored in his opinion.
  - i. Councilor Henry Lee said that all the Forestry Resource Management Plans were read by foresters outside of DCR and one in particular was David Foster the Director of Harvard Forest, Harvard University. Councilor Lee feels we are on track, he read the FRMPs himself and there is no language in the report that permits or allows clear cuts. Councilor Lee disagrees that there is an increase in clear cuts it is half of a percent in clear cuts. The subcommittee is open to re-open the FRMPs to address any issues.
- b. **Alan French, Bass Circuit Alliance, Inc** – Mr. Bass thanked Commissioner Sullivan for helping out with the 200 mile recreational walk trail. Referenced in the last meeting that Mr. Kiernan talked about the pedestrian walkway; they are going to partner with the Friends of Wayland to work on the Central Massachusetts Trail projects.
- c. **Carl Rosenstein, Friends of Buckley Dutton Lake** – Mr. Rosenstein said Commissioner Sullivan opened the door to public process and thanked him for that process. He read a letter from Mass Audubon with the support of forest reserve sent back in September. Mr. Rosenstein proposed more discussion on the concerns of the reserves and ponds. He would like to see more support of the ponds such as Buckley Dutton pond. He feels it is important for the agency to support Berkshire recreational activities and the protection of ponds. Suggested to establish management of small forest reserve and asked for the proposal to be reviewed.
- d. **Ray Webber, Friends of Robinson State Park** – Mr. Webber mentioned a letter from a camper he received regarding markings on trees and this letter was sent to the Commissioner inquiring

why all these markings are there. Mr. Webber also inquired about the complaint of sediments in the stream. Commissioner Sullivan said that he responded to letter and issue immediately. Commissioner Sullivan said that Regional Director, Bob Mellace responded and said that there was no breach of the dam. There was also a visit from DEP as Bob Mellace stated in the letter. Mr. Webber emailed both officials at DEP and was told that beavers were not active. He feels that more cuts put more water into the river. Cutting next to ponds has to stop. Mr. Webber asked for the area to be under preservation.

- e. **A. Richard Miller, Cochituate State Park Advisory Committee** – Mr. Miller was very pleased that Commissioner Sullivan, Jim DiMaio and Conrad Crawford came to visit Cochituate State Park. He inquired about barriers for sound during construction of the bridges. Mr. Miller is pleased that their will be improvements for pedestrian and bicycling trails.
- f. **Ed Murray, Friends of Breakheart president of Friends of Breakheart** - Mr. Murray mentioned the issue at hand at Breakheart Reservation is dogs off leash and dog dump not picked up. Unfortunately 20% of the visitors do not cooperate by keeping the dogs on the leash. Last spring a Chihuahua attacked a visitor walking the trail and the dog off leash severely hurt the person. Mr. Murray inquired DCR's long term plan and what is the short term plan to deal with dogs off leash. There is a need to answer to the public.
  - i. Commissioner Sullivan that he will have Conrad Crawford, Director of Partnerships follow up with him. He said unfortunately the dogs off leash is a problem across the Commonwealth at our parks, it is an issue that has to be addressed. There is a need for better enforcement but there are state laws we have to abide by, DCR has to go to court for enforcement.
- g. **Sharl Heller, Forest and Parks Friends Network** - Ms. Heller mentioned that they had there first successful network meeting which 10-15 groups attended. Conrad Crawford attended and spoke at event. Thanked Conrad and DCR for strengthening DCR partnerships.
  - i. Ms. Heller mentioned that the friends group sent a letter to Governor Patrick this week and to the Stewardship Council to request removal of a council member. She read the letter. Ms. Heller commended the council on the FRMPs and would like to help in the public process and give recommendations for a successful process. She suggested keeping a forum of records of public input and having it open to the public. Ms. Heller is concerned that the panel will dominate public forums and wants assurance the public will be involved.
- h. **Scott Benoit, Grand Trunk Trail Blazers** – Mr. Benoit just wanted to mention his great working relationship with the supervisors at Douglas State Forest and Franklin State Forests. He is working with them on developing a southern New England grand trunk line.
- i. **Renata Von Tscharne, CRC** – Ms. Von Tscharne mentioned how delighted she is that the bridges are being taken care of. She mentioned that the Nature Conservancy can assist in helping to balance transportation with the MBTA. In particular the BU Bridge in regards to the bicycling paths they would love to give input. She also mentioned how crucial it is to have a pedestrian and bicycling path on Craigie bridge.
- j. **Bill Boles, Friends of Wompatuck/NEMBA** – Mr. Boles said that NEMBA would like to be the Trail Care Coordinator for the state parks. He had 42 events for trail care and some of the groups here helped in NEMBA's efforts. Commissioner Sullivan thanked NEMBA and mentioned how NEMBA was involved in trails school training for DCR.
- k. **Mary Ellen Iorio, Resident of Boxford** – Ms. Iorio requested to respectfully put the quarry in Boxford in reserve. She gave a handout to the council regarding the concerns and request.
  - i. Commissioner Sullivan said there must be criteria for FRMP for reserves for certain areas. This will be an open dialogue. Councilor Henry Lee said Chief of Staff,

Stephanie Cooper went over the basic goals which will be posted on the DCR website and asked for comments if you feel a goal is not addressed.

- l. Claudia Hurley, Friends of Robinson State Park** – Mrs. Hurley discussed her concerns with the approved FRMPs. She feels there is not careful management in certain areas for site specific resource management and reserves for recreation. She strongly requested to have clear cuts stopped and to place another moratorium. Mrs. Hurley is not comforted by the enforcement in other areas except for the Berkshire districts. Timber prices are very low now, feels DCR can afford to start moratorium again since the problems have not been officially addressed.
  - i. Chair, Dick Cross said the prior moratorium was to review FRMPs and contract and by law had to address and vote on the FRMPs. There will be nominations for next areas for FRMPs. Mrs. Hurley mentioned how they were told if more information came to light then there can be revisions in FRMPs. Plans is not site specific. Says forester pick areas and needs to study why certain reserves were chosen.
  - ii. Councilor Lee said there was an extensive process before it came to committee. He understands that there is a concern on enforcement and compliance. We should take a look at pieces of property chosen and will have it investigated.
  - iii. Commissioner Sullivan said that with Boxford there were no clear cuts done there and a letter was sent and it is also in Stewardship Council packets.
  - iv. Councilor Whitney Hatch feels a certain amount acreage approved is important and should be posted for reserves. Mrs. Hurley asked about public input. Bob O'Connor said that there were 12 public meetings to get input and is open to do more if needed. Commissioner Sullivan said for every cut that is approved it is posted on the web for public comments.
- m. Steve Kaiser, Association of Cambridge Neighborhood** – Mr. Kaiser mentioned that in Fall River the bridge needs severe repair. He said DCR has been great with bridges and is grateful that it is not under Mass Highway. Mr. Kaiser mentioned the vulnerability in the forest for biomass. He also stated that there is a legal analysis protection to ensure the integrity of the program, protecting (132a) forest; he is suggesting the need for an 18 month moratorium and a letter to go to secretary about forestry.
- n. Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon** – Ms. Ricci asked that we realize the public process is about our concerns on how the forests are managed. She said state forests have the largest rare species and that we need to do to manage forest lands for the maximum benefit. Like prescribed fire that help in rare species. Ms. Ricci is anticipating the public process and on the vision on we can best manage the forest lands. Mass Audubon sent a letter with a 4<sup>th</sup> category on zoning guidelines as to protect areas such as Buckley Dutton that has special areas that should be protected. Ms. Ricci also mentioned that it seems that legislation is not going to pass the OHV Enforcement this year. She would like to meet to see if we have the right consensus and to make sure it doesn't fall off as well make sure to check it does not affect rare species.
- o. Comment:**
  - i. Commissioner Sullivan mentioned that in December 15, DCR will enter a blog. Five agencies across the Commonwealth were chosen to test this blog site and DCR is one of them. It is a form of a comment page on various issues in the Commonwealth; rules of engagement will be posted.

VII. **Meeting Schedule** – Next meeting will be Friday, January 9, 2009 at the Wachusett Reservoir Headquarters in West Boylston.

*Meeting adjourned 3:20 pm*