



**For immediate release
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DCR SELECTS CURATOR FOR BASCOM LODGE IN MT. GREYLOCK STATE RESERVATION

Historic lodge will be rehabilitated and reopened

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has chosen a curator for the historic Bascom Lodge at the top of Mt. Greylock in the Berkshires. Under DCR's Historic Curatorship Program, curators agree to rehabilitate and reuse historic properties in exchange for a long-term lease on the property.

The Bascom Lodge Group, made up of Berkshire natives John Dudek, Peter Dudek, and Brad Parsons, was chosen as curator of the lodge in the town of Adams. DCR's evaluation team unanimously selected the Bascom Lodge Group for its comprehensive approach to the preservation of the property, their appreciation of its historic and social significance, their experience in the food and hospitality industry, and for the public benefits they will provide.

The lodge has been closed for the last two seasons, and the new curators hope to reopen it late this summer.

"The Bascom Lodge Group brings 25 years of experience in hospitality and restaurant management to this project," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Members of the group plan to be on site, managing the property, hiring local craftsmen to do the restoration, even making breakfast pastries in the lodge. I look forward to following this rehabilitation effort."

Last fall, DCR solicited proposals for the reuse and lease of this lodge, and the curators were selected through an open and competitive process. This new curator group joins three other curators selected earlier this year as the first new group of curators in the Historic Curatorship Program. The other new curators are for the Harlow Farmhouse at Ellisville Harbor State Park in Plymouth, the Lamson House in Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield, and the Smith Farmhouse at Borderland State Park in Easton.

The Bascom Lodge Group plans to bring back the tradition of providing quality food, lodging, and services to park visitors. Dining, lodging, and other programs will be inspired by the

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lodge's unique historical, architectural, and natural themes. For example, the group plans to prepare meals from local materials as often as possible.

Public benefits planned by the new curators include sponsoring events and lectures on the natural and cultural history of the park and region, developing interpretive gardens and landscaping to highlight the summit's unique vegetation, and collaborating with DCR staff on tours and programs.

Bascom Lodge was built in the 1930s in the Arts and Crafts style. Approximately 150,000 people – a mix of tourists, hikers passing by along the Appalachian trail, local families, and day visitors – visit the lodge each season.

DCR's Historic Curatorship Program is one of only a handful in the country and is among the most successful. The program requires that reuses of the properties be compatible with the surrounding community and enhance the visitor's experience of the park.

So far, nine properties have been rehabilitated under the Historic Curatorship program, from the mountains of Berkshire County to the urban streets of Dorchester. Current uses for the properties include single-family homes, artist lofts, a nonprofit youth center, and a for-profit events facility.

For more information on the Historic Curatorship Program, visit mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm, send an email to HCP.Requests@state.ma.us, call 617-626-1361, or write to Historic Curatorship Program, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 7th floor, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.