



Meeting Minutes

Stewardship Councilors in Attendance: Chairman Whitney Hatch, Elisa Campbell, Heather Clish, James Van Dyke, Dennis Smith, Antonia Pollack, Michelle Hans

DCR Staff in Attendance: Stephen Doody, Kevin O'Shea, Nick Gove, Mary Clutchy, Norman Orrall, Max Tassinari, Joe Rotondo, Jim Montgomery, George Trubiano, Steward Connor, Paul Jahnige, Andy Bachmann, Karl Pastore

Public Attendees: None

Attachments: None

Chairman Hatch called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

- Chairman Hatch welcomed the Council, reviewed the agenda.
- Announced Chad McGuire's resignation from the Stewardship Council.

Commissioner's Report –Commissioner Carol Sanchez

Commissioner Roy informed the Council on/of the following matters:

- *Welcome and introduction*
 - Norman Orrall
 - Chief, Bureau of Planning and Engineering
 - Nick Gove
 - Assistant Deputy of Planning and Engineering
 - Max Tassinari
 - Budget Director
 - Mary Clutchy
 - Finance Program Coordinator
- Commissioner's Report:
 - Attended the annual Supervisor's Academy at Devens and delivered goals and priorities and met with staff.
 - Opened lines of communication with David Mugar via phone about July 4th
 - Delivered remarks at the annual Esplanade Association meeting.
 - Met with MassDOT to discuss the Worcester Visitor's Center Design.
 - Attended the Forestry Bureau Meeting to deliver goals and priorities and meet with staff of the Bureau of Forestry.
 - First full bureau meeting in years.
 - The annual meeting was very well received by forestry staff.
 - Met with the Lt. Governor's office to continue working on State Piers.
 - Attended the Walden Advisory Board Meeting

- Attended the Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach Meeting.
- Met with the members of the USDA to touch base on our Asian Longhorn Beetle partnership and next year's budget.
- Recorded a taping for Radio 92.9's annual Earthfest, welcoming guests to the Esplanade.
- Interview with WGBH radio regarding the recent dredging of the Charles River.
- Met with the executive Director of the Blue Hills Observatory.
- Met with Rep. Nick Collins (D-South South) to discuss his bill to limit the number of road closures for races and events in his district.
- Joined secretary Beaton at the Haverhill Gateway City Tree Planting events and the Landscape Partnership Grant Announcement in Hamilton
 - Deputy Commissioner Sisk joined Secretary Beaton for another Greening the Gateway Cities event with Mayor Koch in Quincy.
 - Contributing \$300,000 to a conservation restriction in Hamilton
 - Expanding Greening the Gateway Cities to 8 cities—Leominster, Quincy, Haverhill, Pittsfield, Brockton, Lawrence, Lynn, and New Bedford.
 - \$12 million over 3 years
 - 20,000 trees will be planted
- Met with Mayor Arrigo of Revere to follow-up on planning and design of facilities at Wonderland
 - Also toured Wonderland Facility in Revere
- Met with Speak DeLeo and local officials to discuss Winthrop Beach status
- Met with the New England Trail Rider Association for the general discussion of their issues
- Attended the Boston Harbor Association's 23rd celebration and auction
- Met with Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Garnder) regarding Garnder Visitors Center
- DCR/EPA meeting regarding Saugus salt marsh restoration project and other issues
- Joined by Assistant Secretary Sieger to meet with Mayor Curtatone of Somerville on DCR related issues.
- Hosted a meeting with Director Brien Golden, Boston Redevelopment Authority
- Toured Horseneck Beach & meeting with Fall River delegation at Heritage State Park
- Met with Senator Keenan (D-Quincy), Mayor Koch, and other members of the Quincy delegation regarding Squantum Point Park.
- Hosted a meeting with representatives of EF
 - Joined by Undersecretary Ned Bartlett
- Met with the MA Environmental Collaborative to discuss goals and priorities at DCR
- Met with Rep. Fattman and McKenna about the Blackstone Visitor's Center
- Series of internal meetings on the Blue Hills Deer Hunt
 - Scheduling public process for the 2015 results, 2016 announcement.

Commissioner's Report Comments:

- Pollack- Who's paying for new North Point maintenance yard?
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- DCR Central Artery mitigation funds & EF new third building will pay for permanent maintenance facility

- COMMISSIONER ROY- MSP moving forward with lower basin building
 - Will lead to new entrance to Esplanade
 - General area improvements
- Campbell - Quabbin hunters should be advertised to hunt in Blue Hills
- Hanns- With Northeast direct gone, what happens with Connecticut loop?
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- Connecticut loop still under litigation
 - DCR being represented by Attorney General's office
 - Hopeful judge will agree with state article 97 preeminence
 - Tinder Morgan can still appeal federally or get article 97 approval
 - Must protect article 97
- Hatch- Where are state piers?
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- New Bedford, Plymouth, Fall River, Gloucester
 - New Bedford most challenging
 - Lots on tenants
 - Economic engine for area
 - Area for fishermen to fix gear
 - Import clementine for New England
 - Clish- Didn't know state piers were under DCR
- Hatch- Wayne Klochner has questions regarding forestry plans
 - Can council get update on current status of cutting plans?
 - Stewardship council worked hard on plans
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- Opponents are concerned by greenhouse gas emissions
 - Peter Church will present at next meeting
 - Forestry management has many positive effects
 - Kish- She recollects from her involvement lots of discussion on multiple uses of DCR land
 - Can Peter Church give broader context on ecosystem?
 - Campbell- DFW does large cuts with minimal pushback

Committee Updates

Policy and Planning Committee, Chairwoman Elisa Campbell

Chairwoman Campbell informed the Council on/of the following matters:

- Committee had pre-meeting with COMMISSIONER ROY regarding positive benefit of resource management plans(RMPs)
- Everyone down to park staff benefit from RMPs
- Friends groups can help DCR accomplish more with RMP data collection
- COMMISSIONER ROY- DCR staff provide documents to facility staff with great content
- COMMISSIONER ROY- Thanks to DCR staff who are real RMP heroes
- Pollack- RMPs indicate staffing shortfall to implement plans
- Hatch- Park staff always say resource management plans are very helpful

Finance Committee, Councilor Heather Clish

- ***Clish*** - Excited by deferred maintenance panel
- ***Chairman Buckley informed Clish on/of the following matters:***
 - Update on budget process
 - House chair sponsored amendment to increase park operation budget from \$37 million to \$50 million
 - Final line item is approximately \$39 million with year marks
 - 16% decline over FY-16 ERIP inclusive budget
 - Expecting Senate budget mid-may
 - Advocates lining up sponsors
 - Trying for gap analysis funding
 - Chairman Schmidt very passionate about getting DCR funding
 - Advocates want to see what parks need
- ***Pollack- Cost of gap analysis?***
 - Hatch- approximately 250,000
- ***Campbell- Wants Rec Trail grant funding to go to trail maintenance but need applicants***
 - Parks should request grants
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- DCR does trail maintenance in deferred maintenance budget
 - Clish- To get funding there is a need to quantify needs in monetary funds
 - Wants to show DCR project regarding fixing trail at Wachusett next time at the area, success story
- ***Hanns- With 15% lower operating budget are there plans to shut down parks?***
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- No current plans but waiting on final budget to assess
 - Contingency plans in place
 - DCR staff historically make do with what we have
- ***Clish- When budget is final it would be helpful to know how DCR has to adapt***
 - COMMISSIONER ROY spoke frankly at environmental collaborative and it was incredibly helpful to open advocates' eyes to DCR needs
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- House funded earmarks which is helpful
 - Got excited by budget amendment but disappointed by outcome
 - Speak DeLeo acknowledged funding shortfall
- ***DCR expecting to hear on capital budget by end of May***
 - Bump in FY-16 not expected in FY-17
- ***Van Dyke thinks legislators would act differently if they knew impacts of budget specifically***
- ***Pollack- Greater impact on staff with earmarks***
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- always tells legislators of dire straits
 - Friends Groups need to contribute to get projects through
- ***Smith- Legislators knowing consequences of budget is vital***
 - Growing friends groups will have lasting impacts
 - More funding + advocacy
- ***COMMISSIONER ROY- friends groups need help growing capacity***
 - Esplanade Association has offered to help other groups grow

- Pollack- Esplanade Association may not be the best example
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- Nick Connors overseeing outreach + friends group
- Clish- worries about parks without friends groups
 - No socio-economic benefits are able to get attention
- Hatch- Impressed by bi-partisan nature of amendments
 - Legislators were concerned by use of funds
 - Break down of earmarks
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- Need staff with new money (Clish agrees)

Special Business

- COMMISSIONER ROY introduced staff
 - Spoke of campground assessment
- Orrall: New Planning and Engineering chief
 - Deferred maintenance huge challenge
- Clutchy- One line item doesn't give full picture
 - Hiring skilled staff lowering maintenance
- COMMISSIONER ROY- Staff at PSO fixed DCR facilities at lower cost
- Pollack- Are we monitoring time saved by using staff vs. contractors?
 - Gove- PSO tracking data, reactive vs. proactive maintenance and PSO getting new system
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- contractors have issues getting around parks, staff make more efficient work
 - Hatch- savings analysis would be helpful
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- 2x savings
- Hatch- What are some coastal improvement examples?
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- DCR waterways group are statewide coastal experts, DCR provides technical expertise for state
- Campbell- What other issues does PSO cover?
 - Norm- gives example of tennis courts, PSO and engineering work together on larger projects
- Smith- Pros and cons for closing parks?
 - Pollack- closures tend to exacerbate costs
 - COMMISSIONER ROY- agreed. Gives Massasoit as an example.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Councilor Hatch _____, seconded by Councilor Campbell _____ to accept the April, 2016 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business

- No New Business

Public Comment

The following constituents expressed their opinions/issues/matters to the Council:

- No public attendees.

Closing Comment

- No Closing Comments

Meeting Schedule

Next meeting will be held Thursday, June 2 at Peddock's Island.

Chairman Hatch adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.