



## October Meeting Minutes

**Council Members Present:** Jack Buckley, Jeffrey Collins, Dicken Crane, Melissa Harper, Dennis Smith, Nate Walton, Jennifer N.S. Wilson, Esq.

**Council Members Not Present:** Ann Canedy, Esq., Vivian Ortiz, Susan Smiley

**DCR Staff Attendees:** Lisa Barstow, Paul Cavanagh, Nick Connors, Jim Montgomery

### Public Attendees as Registered:

Janet Sinclair  
Philip Saunders  
Catherine L  
617-816-541X  
Chuck Anastas

Alison McRae  
Bill Boles  
Buzz iPhone  
Edward Fleck  
Glen Ayers

Ian Dinnie  
Margo Newman  
Michael Nichols (presenter)  
Suzanne Gall Marsh

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### Call to Meeting – Chairman Nate Walton

Chairman Walton opened the meeting with greetings and instructions for virtual meeting format. Provided an overview of the Special Commission Draft Report and encouraged its review.

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### DCR Report – Jim Montgomery, Commissioner

Commissioner Montgomery announced rinks operated by DCR are open as are many of our rinks that are operated by partners. He noted we are in the process of a full refurbishment of the Kasabuski Rink in Saugus with a new operator.

In addition, we recently concluded an RFP for the operation of the Nordic ski area at Great Brook Farm, are in close contact with our operator for the Blue Hills Ski area to extend that agreement and preparing Leo J. Martin for the coming switch over from golf to Nordic Skiing.

#### Monthly updates:

- Edgewater Drive – Design and Engineering continues to work closely with our contractor in developing plans for the area and we have continued the close

coordination between the City of Boston, MAPC and the project team on the City effort to secure a grant for a trail that will connect there.

- The commissioner acknowledged ongoing budget discussions with George Trubiano and Finance Chair Jack Buckley.
- The Special Commission met yesterday to discuss the draft report where many clarifying questions among UMDI, EEA and our team were raised and answered. DCR will continue to address any questions raised.
- Having successfully operated two pilot beer gardens in the Boston area, we have posted a new RFP for those locations. In addition, we are working internally to finalize a list for an RFI of additional locations.
- Regarding e-bikes, DCR has reviewed the Volpe Transportation Center literature, are finalizing regs with EEA and the trails team. A more fulsome update is coming soon.

### Esplanade Association Proposal and Context

- The public parkland at the former Lee Pool Site has been in the DCR portfolio for approximately 70 years since it was transferred from the City of Boston. A public process led by former Commissioner Roy resulted in a plan for a large facility with year-round recreational opportunities. The most recent proposal by the Esplanade Association proposes changes to that model.
- A 2015 RMP included extensive outreach and was approved by the council calling for a universally accessible pastoral landscape that restores the parks historic character and seeks year-round recreational opportunities in partnership with EA and others.

EEA/DCR priorities focus on:

- Prioritizing public access
- Maximizing recreational opportunities
- Considering the precedent for future DCR partnerships
- Planning for climate resilient facilities

Priority Site Features would include:

- Parklands
- Bathrooms (or other structures that support neighboring sites)
- Mobile concession support
- Facilities for DCR/Esplanade recreational equipment storage
- A Plan for management of traffic and pedestrian access
- A Plan that enables DCR to retain fees and scheduling capabilities as we have at Daly Field

~ Q&A ~

Vice Chair Harper asked about a timetable on Beer Garden RFIs and where they would be posted. Commissioner Montgomery/Deputy Commissioner Connors said next few weeks and postings are on CommBuys, with alerts to Mass. Brewers Guild and anyone who has expressed interested to DCR over past three years, respectively.

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## Regular Business I

### *Approval of Minutes – September 9, Meeting*

Chairman Walton motioned to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Councilor Collins. Chairman Walton called the roll on the adoption of the minutes, as indicated for virtual meetings:

Councilor Buckley – Yes  
Councilor Collins – Yes  
Councilor Crane – Yes  
Councilor Harper – Yes  
Councilor Smith – Yes  
Councilor Walton – Yes  
Councilor Wilson – Yes

The *September 9, 2021* minutes were adopted.

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*Public Comment – [Guidelines](#) are available on the DCR Stewardship Council website.*

Chairman Walton invited members of the public for comment, which was offered by the following:

- Glen Ayers
- Bill Boles
- Janet Sinclair
- Catherine LeBlanc – *for Sierra Club*

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## Regular Business II

[Charlesbank Landing Update](#) – Michael Nichols, Executive Director the Esplanade Association

~ Q&A ~

Councilor Buckley noted this partnership as a way to attract private money to the parks and asked for the state and DCR's position. Deputy Commissioner Connors noted we provided direct feedback on how it would impact our operations in Boston and throughout the state. Councilor Buckley asked DCR for a clear set of responses. Councilor Wilson cited the council's Article 97 responsibility as rationale to obtain copy of DCR's comments on this legislation and note how this establishes a role model for other Friends group collaborations.

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## Regular Business II

[Bureau of Forest Fire Control Update](#) – Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship, DCR

~ Q&A ~

Councilor Buckley inquired how Forest Management Plans could be streamlined to become a more publicly accessible document. Mr. Church discussed landscape designations and mapping as ways to point people to information that is more accessible. Councilor Buckley offered assistance, as the council had done with RMPs, which Mr. Church welcomed.

Discussion ranged from carbon stock to biological diversity to recreation as issues to consider under a forest inventory system.

Councilor Collins applauded the work DCR is doing and asked about a review of landscape designations and a public process around the State Forest Action Plan that engages partners, noting past success with MassAudubon. Mr. Church said he will first talk internally with staff and the commissioner, but he favors the current categories of parklands, woodlands, and reserves.

Councilor Crane underscored the importance of carbon and the different perspectives and meanings ascribed to terms makes having a common language and understanding of information very important. He asked that the Bureau be very clear where information comes from on climate and biodiversity.

Discussion ensued on forest health and forest inventory reporting including deer over-population and DCR's hunting policies.

Mr. Church noted the forestry bureau works closely with Paul Cavanagh and the DCR Planning entity to dovetail RMPs with FRMPs and ensure processes are aligned.

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## Regular Business III

*Committee Meeting Breakouts and Updates*

*Stakeholders Committee*

Vice Chair Harper reported for the group. She stated the guest request process is working and the committee is reviewing/recommending guests, with the chairman making final decisions. Bill Boles comments on e-bikes will be circulated. Ms. Harper asked Michael Nichols for legislative comments and a presentation/list from DCR on Deferred Maintenance was reiterated.

*Finance Committee*

Committee Chair Buckley reported for the group. He underscored the need to establish an annual schedule for budget priorities including public comments in May, culminating with a

vote in July. To do so may require a separate public meeting in May—this he noted to give weight to the council’s recommendations. He mused on financial impact of legislation taking away parking meter revenue and agreed with the Special Commission recommendation that the council sub-committees meet separately.

### *Policy and Operations Committee*

Committee Chair Wilson reported for the group. She said they are working with Paul Cavanagh on a dashboard and presentation to the full council and discussed RMP funding.

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### *Discussion on Elections*

Chairman Walton recommended a model for council elections based on Vice Chair Harper’s board found in Robert’s Rules of Order. He distributed guidelines to members with a plan for nominations to be taken at the November meeting and a vote at the December meeting. Discussion ensued and there was agreement among members to be adaptable and make changes as may be warranted.

Chairman Walton motioned to approve said process for election of officers, seconded by Councilor Buckley. Chairman Walton called the roll on the adoption of the minutes, as indicated for virtual meetings:

Councilor Walton – Yes  
Councilor Crane – Yes  
Councilor Buckley – Yes  
Councilor Collins – Yes  
Councilor Wilson – Yes  
Councilor Harper – Yes

The motion was adopted.

Final thoughts expressed by Councilor Wilson included expanding who the council hears from and the diversity of those who attend meetings, recognizing they miss many points of view.

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## **Adjournment**

Chairman Walton adjourned the meeting until November 10, 2021.

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Please check the [DCR Stewardship Council webpage](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council) for notice of upcoming meetings.  
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