



July Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: Jack Buckley, Ann Canedy, Esq., Dicken Crane, Melissa Harper, Vivian Ortiz, Alvin L. Reynolds, Esq., Dennis Smith, Nate Walton, Jennifer N.S. Wilson, Esq.

Council Members Not Present: David Murphy

Member Materials: [Enabling Statute Alternatives Review](#)

DCR Attendees: Lisa Barstow, Deputy Commissioner Nick Connors

Public Attendees as Registered

Doug Pizzi
Gia (she/her)
Bill Boles
Theresa Lynn

Pat Conlin
Chuck Anastas
Glen Ayers
Tribalscribal

Trish Gallagher
Kate
Jessica Mink
Miriam Kurland

Call to Meeting – Chairman Nate Walton

Chairman Walton called the meeting to order. Reviewed housekeeping items relative to the online meeting format and rules. He introduced Deputy Commissioner Nick Connors for the DCR Report.

DCR Report – Nick Connors, Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Public Affairs and Administration

Mr. Connors was pleased to announce a return to more normal summer operations. DCR pools and beaches are open and guarded, bathroom and comfort centers are open as is camping at 50% capacity to ensure social distancing. Visitor centers remain closed and Special Use Permits will be issued beginning in August.

Mr. Connors reported that the highly successful Summer Nights program, instituted by Gov. Baker for urban youth, remains on schedule this summer with strict COVID-19 protections.

Councilor Ortiz noted appreciation for DCR staff maintaining the Neponset River Bike Trail and engaging with cyclists but raised concern about a DCR truck spotted on the bike path.

Regular Business I

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Walton introduced a friendly amendment to and took a roll call on the adoption of the minutes, as indicated for virtual meetings:

- Councilor Canedy - Yes
- Councilor Smith - Yes
- Councilor Buckley - Yes
- Councilor Ortiz – Yes
- Councilor Harper – abstained
- Councilor Crane - Yes
- Councilor Wilson - Yes
- Councilor Reynolds - Yes
- Councilor Walton – Yes

The [June 18, 2020 minutes](#) were adopted.

Public Comment

Chairman Walton read the Public Comment Guidelines, and public comment was offered by the following:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| - Bill Boles | - Doug Pizzi |
| - Glen Ayers | - Gia Neswold |
| - Don Ogden | |

Regular Business II

Resource Management Plan Approval

Councilor Reynolds introduced a motion to approve the Resource Management Plan concept draft. Councilor Canedy seconded the motion. Chairman Walton took a roll call vote, as indicated for virtual meetings:

- Councilor Canedy - Yes
- Councilor Buckley - Yes
- Councilor Ortiz – Yes
- Councilor Harper – Yes
- Councilor Wilson - Yes
- Councilor Smith - Yes
- Councilor Crane - Yes
- Councilor Reynolds - Yes
- Councilor Walton – Yes

All in favor, the motion was adopted.

Enabling Legislation Discussion

Councilor Reynolds asked Councilor Wilson to present the Policy and Operations Committee's latest draft prioritizing current and alternative ways to address issues within the enabling legislation that formed the Stewardship Council.

Councilor Wilson walked the members through a [document](#) that created two areas for review: Council Composition and Structure and Roles and Responsibilities. A dynamic discussion ensued among all council members.

In areas where the legislation was silent, some parameters were recommended. In other areas, it was recommended that working with the Administration made more sense, i.e. to ensure vacancies are filled with qualified people, across multiple stakeholder enterprises and geographies in a timely manner vs. designated seats as is currently written.

There also was discussion that the legislation assumed members would have a level of knowledge of agency operations that may be unrealistic or impractical as outside advisors. The need was underscored for ongoing collaboration with the DCR Commissioner and leadership to be effective advocates for the agency's budget priorities.

Action items include: develop an annual legislative calendar—in partnership with DCR Commissioner; schedule a budget discussion with Chair and Vice Chair and the Commissioner; draft Oversight Document; review draft of Forest Action Plan—offering input into this 10-year plan before it is enacted.

Councilor Buckley praised the work of the Policy and Operations Committee for their excellent work tackling the enabling legislation topic.

Councilor Reynolds thanked Deputy Commissioner Connors for his help in moving a more streamlined Resource Management Plan forward to a vote.

In closing, Chairman Walton thanked the Policy and Operations Committee for their great work and thanked Councilor Wilson for presenting and facilitating an extraordinary discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Please check the DCR Stewardship Council webpage for notice of upcoming meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council>