



April Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: Jack Buckley, Ann Canedy. Esq., Melissa Harper, Alvin L. Reynolds, Jr., Esq., Dennis Smith

Council Members Not Present: David Murphy, Vivian Ortiz, Nate Walton

DCR Attendees: Lisa Barstow, Stephen Doody, Leo Roy

Public Attendees: Charles Anastis

Welcome and Call to Meeting

Acting Chairman Dennis Smith opened the meeting at 12:12pm. He stated that he is acting as chair on a volunteer basis and to facilitate the April meeting – he is not interested in the full-time chair position. He noted the importance of the Council establishing a full-time Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, pointing out that the enabling legislation calls for elections at least annually for the position of Chair and Secretary.

Special Business

A discussion ensued about the length of the Chairman's term. Councilors Reynolds and Harper expressed support for a two-year term for Chair. The process for selecting the chair also was discussed and whether to engage in elections at the next meeting or to wait for additional council member appointments if they are shortly forthcoming.

Commissioner Roy stated that he expects to hear back soon regarding candidates for the two environmental seats – outreach as dictated by statute has been done. Commissioner Roy noted it is believed that the Governor's office has done outreach to candidates for the Worcester County and Berkshire County vacancies.

Councilor Reynolds emphasized the need for a full complement of members prior to election of officers while Councilors Harper and Canedy suggested having an officer structure in place for the benefit and mentoring of new members. Councilors briefly discussed the best method for nomination of officers: self-nomination vs. peer nomination.

Councilor Harper presented a working plan with a four-committee council where councilors would be matched with subject matters in which they have interest. Committees would be Policy, Operations/Asset Management, Finance and Friends groups. Councilor Buckley suggested the formation of a Constituent Service/Stakeholders committee with a wider base than just Friends groups. Councilor Reynolds agreed.

It was suggested that four committee meetings a year might be a possibility – they would be public meetings but a quorum would not be necessary. Commissioner Roy was supportive of the four meeting concept. Acting Chair Smith was hopeful that committees could be formed in May and June.

It was established that Councilor Harper would aggregate information from fellow Councilors regarding their interest in specific committees. Councilors Reynolds and Buckley indicated interest in Policy. Councilor Canady indicated interest in Stakeholders and secondarily, Policy.

Discussion about new dates and times for future Council meetings transpired. Acting Chair Smith offered to conduct outreach to Councilors Ortiz, Murphy and Walton about the May meeting details.

Councilor Canedy asked that the February minutes reflect that she was a “Town Councilor” not a “Select Board Member” in Barnstable.

Councilor Reynolds suggested “Curatorship” as a possible addition to the May meeting agenda.

When legislative changes to the Stewardship Council structure are seriously deliberated upon, it was suggested the DCR’s Legislative Director (Sean Pierce) be in attendance.

Councilor Buckley expressed support for having DCR staff people give regular presentations at Council meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2 at 8:30 a.m. at Myles Standish State Forest, 194 Cranberry Road, Carver.

The June meeting will be June 6 at 8:30 a.m. [confirmed at MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westboro].