



December Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: Ann B. Canedy, Esq., Melissa Harper, David Murphy, Dennis Smith, Nate Walton, Jennifer N.S. Wilson, Esq.

Council Members Not Present: Jack Buckley, Vivian Ortiz, Alvin L. Reynolds, Esq.

DCR Attendees: Maggi Brown, Stuart Conner, Stephen Doody, Priscilla Geigis, Joe Rotondo, Kathy Ward

Public Attendees (from sign-in sheet): Bill Boles, NEMBA/Friends of Wompatuck; Sandy Dennis, Creative Arts Network (CAN)

Call to Meeting – Chairman Nate Walton

Chairman Walton opened his remarks by thanking DCR's Maggie Brown for the brief tour and oral history she provided to an assembled group prior to the Council proceedings. The Chairman then announced today's meeting would not include breakout sessions, but that Council members would provide committee updates. He also announced that DCR's Kathy Ward would do a presentation on the agency's Asset Management Modernization Program (AMMP) – and he encouraged Councilors to ask questions at the presentation's conclusion.

Commissioner's Report – Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and Resource Stewardship, Priscilla Geigis

Chairman Walton invited Deputy Commissioner Priscilla Geigis to deliver the Commissioner's Report. The report is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Post Committee Meeting Reports

Stakeholders Committee

Councilor Smith reported for the Committee. He noted that he, Councilor Harper and Councilor Ortiz attended a meeting at DCR Headquarters in Boston on November 25 with Director of External Affairs & Partnerships Jennifer Norwood and members of her team. Notes from that meeting were distributed to the Council. Councilor Smith said four main “action items” covered at the meeting were:

1. A survey targeted at stakeholder groups was proposed in an effort to better understand their needs and wants
2. Strategies to identify if/how to augment DCR external affairs/communications
3. A discussion was had about how to better track the status of constituent service issues raised at Stewardship Council meetings
4. The role of social media at DCR was discussed

Councilor Harper expressed her appreciation for the accessibility and cooperation of the DCR External Affairs team.

Finance Committee

Councilor Murphy reported for the committee. He talked about the DCR/Commonwealth budget cycle and announced that a meeting with Secretary Theoharides is scheduled for January. He also talked about the impact DCR has on the state economy.

Policy and Operations Committee

Councilor Wilson reported for the committee. She updated the group on the quest for best practices for preparing Resource Management Plan preparation in a timely manner. She noted the exemplary efforts of DCR’s Paul Cavanaugh. On a separate note, Councilor Wilson spoke of the potential for staggered Stewardship Council terms for appointees to establish better long-term continuity.

Special Business

At 10:53am Councilor Murphy invited DCR’s Kathy Ward to begin her Asset Management Modernization Program presentation.

(AMMP Presentation given at this juncture)

After the AMMP presentation, Councilor Smith asked why rinks and pools generate the most work orders. Kathy Ward explained that visitation volume causes wear-and-tear on the facilities. Also, she said DCR’s commitment to stay in compliance with Department of Public Health regulations is a driver of maintenance requests.

Councilor Murphy asked how asset data collection gets prioritized. Kathy Ward said there are several factors, including input from the Commissioner's Office and trying to establish regional/complex balance.

Councilor Harper asked about the plan for long-term AMMP data integrity. Kathy Ward explained that the user can make appropriate modifications "on the fly" and the information gets captured by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM).

Councilor Harper asked about the relationship between the AMMP project and constituent services. Kathy Ward said that AMMP/constituent relationship would come into clearer focus later in 2020.

Councilor Murphy asked about a potential public access component to the information being collected by AMMP. Kathy Ward drew a parallel to the public's access to DCR's snow/ice removal prioritization map, but then said any similar type arrangement with AMMP will be determined in the future.

Chairman Walton asked if the AMMP data could potentially lead to cost savings by DCR. Kathy Ward said right now the focus is on collecting accurate and usable data and the financial piece will be fleshed-out in time.

Councilors Harper and Wilson commented about the usefulness AMMP data will offer when setting future budget priorities.

Kathy Ward said that DCR's Paul Cavanaugh was enthused about the AMMP progress and sees how it could play a role in the future compilation of RMPs. Councilor Wilson said the Paul Cavanaugh expressed the same sentiment at a previous Council meeting.

Chairman Walton thanked Kathy Ward for her presentation and asked the Council if they objected to a five-minute break. There was no objection.

Regular Business

Stewardship Council proceedings resumed at 11:45am. Shortly thereafter, a motion to approve the October meeting minutes was offered and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Chairman Walton invited members of the public to address the Council. The only person to do so was Bill Boles of the New England Mountain Biking Association and Friends of Wompatuck State Park. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and spoke of an upcoming "Toys for Tots" event at Blue Hills and Cape Cod. Mr. Boles suggested a change to the

annual First Day Hikes program, saying that activities like dog sled riding could be incorporated. Mr. Boles also suggested that DCR consider introducing a deer hunt to Wompatuck State Park modeled after the success of the Blue Hills Deer Hunt; he said hunting is already allowed in Wompatuck and a deer hunt would be well-received locally.

Deputy Commissioner Geigis congratulated Mr. Boles on the recent award he received for outstanding volunteerism.

Chairman Walton announced that the January 10th Council meeting would be held in the Great Hall at the State House, and he thanked Councilor Smith for arranging the meeting location. Councilor Smith expressed hope that the State House meeting site would attract various stakeholder groups and legislators.

A motion to adjourn was offered and unanimously accepted.



The next meeting of the DCR Stewardship Council will be held at the Massachusetts State House, Great Hall of Flags, January 10, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.