



April 9, 2014

Dear Friends:

On March 24, 2014, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) was pleased to hold the first of three community workshops in connection with the Roxbury Heritage State Park Signature Park Project. DCR wishes to thank Dr. Valerie Roberson, President of Roxbury Community College, and the staff at RCC for hosting this event in their Student Center. It proved to be the ideal forum for us to hear and learn from the Roxbury community.

At this first workshop, the public had an opportunity to provide input on the development of a vision for the future of the Roxbury Heritage State Park. This included identifying desirable improvements to, and activities at, the Dillaway-Thomas House and Roxbury Heritage State Park and the historical themes to interpret through exhibits.

We have prepared a summary of what we heard from the attendees at the meeting regarding the preliminary project goals and objectives identified earlier in the public process through conversations with community leaders and stakeholders: to celebrate the rich and diverse history of Roxbury, to make improvements to the Dillaway-Thomas House and increase its use as a community resource, to include the community during all phases of planning and construction, and to restore and interpret the historic landscape. The summary, as well as other project materials, can be found at [www.mass.gov/dcr/rhsp-project](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/rhsp-project).

Our agency views an inclusive and robust public process - involving the community as a whole throughout planning and construction - as key to the success of the Roxbury Heritage State Park Signature Project; we are here to listen to you. Accordingly, if you have comments as you read through the project and meeting materials, or you would like to receive project updates, including information regarding local and minority workforce participation, please email [dcr.updates@state.ma.us](mailto:dcr.updates@state.ma.us), write to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114, or call 617-626-4974.

DCR and our team of consultants, led by Clarendon Hill Consulting, will be considering all public comments received in developing conceptual design alternatives for the project. At a second community planning workshop at the First Church of Roxbury at 6:00 PM on the evening of Thursday, April 24, we will be seeking public input on these alternatives. Then, at a third public workshop, to be held Thursday evening, May 29, 2014, we will present, and seek public feedback on, a preferred alternative.



We encourage you to be an active participant in our public process by providing us with your input during all phases of the project and by inviting your friends and neighbors to view the project materials found on our website and to attend our upcoming workshops.

On behalf of Governor Deval Patrick and Secretary Rick Sullivan, we thank you for your commitment to the community of Roxbury. With your ongoing support and involvement, and that of the community-at-large, we look forward to the realization of the Roxbury Heritage State Park as a resource center that celebrates the rich and diverse history that surrounds it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Murray', written in a cursive style.

John P. Murray  
Commissioner

Attachments