

Halibut Point SP Improvements Public Comments

deadline October 1, 2019

Time	Topic	Comment	Name (First)	Name (Last)
9/28/19 6:22 AM	Halibut Point SP Improvements - deadline October 1, 2019	<p>The signage is MUCH better, although I feel it could be a smaller and lower granite wall in both instances</p> <p>I understand the need to increase the parking lot since we are going to a year-round program here BUT 2 bus parking spots!! something like 60-odd people each? We don't have ANY bus parking now! AND 30 additional parking spots. You are TOTALLY changing the character of this park!!</p> <p>Narrowing the paths? Have you been here on a full-parking-lot day? The paths are jam-ups now!!</p> <p>Curating the granite: Ridiculous! This is meant to be a PRESERVE not a Museum!</p>	Ann	BANKS
9/29/19 4:36 AM	Halibut Point SP Improvements - deadline October 1, 2019	<p>Bathrooms: The Commissioner commented at the presentation in September that bathrooms were a necessity for people arriving at the Park and usually before they left as well. There was no comment, however, about the present one, a Clivus Multrum. Surely, you could include a refurbishing of that one. We could probably use a second one with the increase you are planning, but at least, please pay some attention to the one we have!!!</p> <p>The Commissioner commented that bathrooms were another million dollars, thereby dismissing the topic. I don't think it should be dismissed so readily!. It should be addressed.</p>	Ann	BANKS

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Time	Topic	Comment	Name (First)	Name (Last)
10/1/19 5:52 PM	Halibut Point SP Improvements - deadline October 1, 2019	<p>I recently attended the meeting for phase two of Halibut Point State Park. I am opposed to the removal of the Silva House. I was told there would be a further meeting to discuss the house.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is this an open meeting? Would you provide time and location to those leaving contact information with you. 2. I have the deed to the purchase of this house from the granite company by Carlo and Elizabeth Balestraci. 3. This house was a Babson Farm House. Lived in by descendants of the Babson Farm Family. Purchased by the Granite Company, sold to Elizabeth and Carlo Balestraci, a quarry worker, and then to Elinor Balestracci and then to Elinor and Robert Silva. Then sold to the state. It should not be removed. It creates a welcome far greater than the part two image where it is replaced by a sign. 1b. Local historical committee recommended in writing to the state that it not be removed. No information has been discussed on costs and a study is needed for possibilities for this house. This should be presented to the public 4. Is there a possibility that the Cow Barn be turned into rest rooms? 5. The second floor of the house be used for visiting ornathologist, astronomers, and environmentalists. Possibly rented for a fee for usage helping the state with costs. The first floor for information with one gender neutral handicap toilet. 6. I believe sales of granite jewelry would also generate money to help with costs. 7. The local Cape Ann Historical Museum in Gloucester has an outstanding room with film of this quarry and the granite industry. Could you work together with the museum and not replicate? <p>I have pictures of this farming land, animals and gardens from the time it was owned by the Balestraci family if anyone is interested I will send copied images.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The amazing Tiffany windows should pay for a start to restoration. Why did the state remove them and where are they located? If sold of 	Barbara	Reed

To: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114

From:



Re: HPSP Improvements and the Silva House

The deadline has long passed to input comments through your online portal regarding improvements at Halibut Point State Park (HPSP). So, I am sending this follow-up letter by both e-mail and regular post. I attended the last public meeting on the HPSP improvements project that occurred Sept. 17, 2019. I came away generally pleased by the progress made on the Visitor's Center, but still concerned about the fate of the Silva House. In my prior online comments, I had advocated for retaining the dark night sky, developing a geology exhibit in the Visitor's Center, and saving the Silva House for a welcoming center with bathroom "services," beverages & snacks, and rotating exhibits of relevance to the park. I further suggested that you could partner with the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club (GAAC), Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team, Friends of HPSP, and other potential stakeholders for tending the welcoming center.

Today, I am again advocating for gainful use of the Silva house – or its replacement. Options that I have identified include

- Renting out the house to interested stakeholders such as those mentioned above. The DCR would have landlord status and therefore associated responsibilities for restoration and maintenance.
- Transferring the Silva House to the DCR's Historic Curatorship Program, whereby one or more selected stakeholders would take on the responsibility of restoration and maintenance. The aim here would be to make a significant part of the property (e.g. the downstairs) accessible by the public at designated times as a welcoming center with bathroom services, beverages, rotating exhibits, and live programming.
- Selling the Silva House and associated property outright – preferably to interested stakeholders who will restore it and make relevant nature-based use of the property.

- Razing the Silva House and replacing it with a new structure for bathroom services and a welcoming three-season pavilion for beverage services, rotating exhibits, and live programming.

If the DCR is considering any of these options, I would be happy to serve as a liaison to relevant stakeholders on Cape Ann.

Congratulations on what you have done already, and best of wishes going forward with your plans to further improve this precious gem in the MA State Park system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William H. Waller".

William H. Waller, Ph.D.

C.C. Ramona Latham (Halibut Point State Park),
Superintendent Rob Liebow (Rockport Public Schools),
Mike Deneen – President (Gloucester Area Astronomy Club),
Massachusetts Senator Bruce Tarr