**January Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present**: Jack Buckley, Dicken Crane

**DCR Staff Attendees** Matthew Perry

**Public Attendees as Registered**: Chuck Anastas

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**Call to Order – Committee Chair Jack Buckley**

Councilor Buckley welcomed the attendees, took attendance of Councilors, and went over the meeting agenda.

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**Creation of Meeting Schedule**

Councilor Buckley created a schedule for committee meetings based on what was followed last year. He shared the schedule with Councilor Crane and Matt Perry prior to the meeting. Councilor Crane agreed with the schedule that he was given and said that a topic of discussion at an upcoming meeting should be what DCR was able to do with the budget increase they were given last year in the state budget.

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**DCR Budget Forum**

Councilor Buckley brought up the subject of the DCR Budget Forum that was held last year by the Stewardship Council to discuss the agency’s budget priorities. He said it is a public meeting where people are given the opportunity to comment on the budget and tell the Council what they think. Councilor Buckley proposed holding a similar event for the budget this year and Councilor Crane concurred. Chuck Anastas responded saying that as a member of the public, he found the forum to be helpful and that it should be promoted to outside groups to increase attendance.

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**Forest Management**

Councilor Crane brought up the subject of Forest Management and how it can be used to help fund further management such as invasive species removal through the sale of timber. He noted that trees needed to be cut for forest health reasons, and when there is income as a result of a cut, that money should be put back into park improvements.

He spoke about how this issue is related to the RMP process and suggested speaking with DCR staff member Paul Cavanaugh.

Councilor Buckley agreed that any revenue gained by DCR should go right back into management of the parks.

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**Public Comments**

Chuck Anastas from the Massachusetts Conservation Voters (MVC) commented that he would like to know more about DCR’s needs in a Bond Bill.

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**Adjournment**

Councilor Buckley thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.

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Please check the DCR Stewardship Council webpage for notice of upcoming meetings. <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council>