# May 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Susan Smiley, Ted Dooley, Melissa Harper, Dennis Smith

Other Councilors Present**:** Jack Buckley

DCR Staff Attendees: Matthew Perry

## Call to Order – Committee Chair Susan Smiley

Chair Smiley welcomed the attendees, took attendance of Councilors, and went over the meeting agenda.

## Approval of Minutes

Councilor Smith moved to approve the Committee’s March meeting minutes.

Councilor Harper seconded.

The March minutes were approved with Councilor Smith abstaining.

## Requests to Present

Mr. Perry reported that the Western Mass Backcountry Alliance has submitted a request to present at an upcoming meeting. The group works to restore backcountry ski trails in Western Massachusetts including at DCR’s Beartown State Forest and Bryant State Forest. The group would present about their work and relationship with the agency.

The committee approved the group to present and will invite them for the July 11, 2024 meeting of the full council.

## Stakeholders Listening Session

Mr. Tourigny and Mr. Crowley suggested the date of August 12, 2024 at 6pm for the next Stakeholders Listening Session to the committee. The committee agreed that the date will work.

Councilor Harper said she was concerned that August might be a hard month to hold it in and that they may not get high participation because of its during the end of the summertime.

Chair Smiley said that they will get it on the calendar now which will give people the opportunity to plan for it. She said that it is possible it may attract different people than came to the first session.

Councilor Smith said that it helps that they are holding the meeting on Zoom so people can participate without having to travel. He said that for the start time, it might be a concern that people don’t get home from work until 6pm or 6:30pm and suggested that they go with the later time of 6:30 to start.

Chair Smiley agreed, and said they might want to do a later start time at 7pm but was open to what the committee wanted.

Councilor Smith said that for consistency with the first listening session, he thinks they should start at 6:30 so people know when to expect it.

Councilor Dooley agreed and said 6:30 was a good time to start.

The listening session will be held on August 12, 2024 from 6:30pm to 8pm. Mr. Perry will send out a calendar invite to the committee as a reminder.

## Other Business

Mr. Perry said that he will send out information on the state’s eBike policy to everyone prior to the May meeting of the Council.

Chair Smiley discussed the upcoming schedule for committee meetings. She said with the summer coming, she would like to defer the upcoming meeting at the end of May to June 28. In addition, she would like to defer the August meeting and to instead meet on September 6. The committee agreed with those dates.

Chair Smiley said that for the upcoming council meeting, she is encouraging everyone to bring their bikes to use the bike path at the Worcester Visitors Center after the meeting. So far, Chair Smiley, Councilors Smith and Buckley, and Mr. Perry are planning on biking after the meeting.

It was noted that the Commissioner will address the recently announced pause in hiring at the next council meeting.

## Adjournment

Chair Smiley thank everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Please check the DCR Stewardship Council webpage for notice of upcoming meetings.* [*https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council*](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council)