# November 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Susan Smiley, Laura Jasinski, Dennis Smith, Vivian Ortiz, Melissa Harper

**Other Councilors Present:** Dicken Crane

DCR Staff Attendees: Matthew Perry, A.J. Tourigny

Members of the Public: Jack Roth

## Call to Order – Committee Chair Susan Smiley

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

Public Comment: Chair Smiley asked if any members of the public would like to make a comment.

### *Comments were offered by the following:*

Jack Roth, East Falmouth

## Approval of Minutes

Councilor Smith moved to approve the October 4, 2024 meeting minutes.

Councilor Ortiz seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved.

## Recap of Trails Conference

Chair Smiley told the Committee that she had the opportunity to attend the Mass Trails conference and that DCR did a great job putting together the well-attended event.

Mr. Perry recapped the listening session, saying that the presentation from Chair Smiley and Council Chair Buckley went well and that the feedback from the attendees was mostly positive and constructive.

Chair Smiley agreed and said that she looks forward to doing a larger in-person listening session adding that this one felt different from the online ones that have been held in a positive way.

Councilor Ortiz asked if they could get a list of attendees so they can get in touch with them to give awareness of the Council.

## Partnership Presentation Request

Mr. Perry said he spoke with Doug Pizzi of Mass Parks for All and that he will be filling out the form to present at an upcoming meeting.

Councilors Jasinski and Ortiz asked if Mr. Perry could send them the online form so the organizations that they are involved with can submit to present.

## 2025 Meeting Schedule

Chair Smiley presented the proposed dates and locations for the 2025 Council meetings.

Councilor Dennis said that the schedule looks really good and that it is important there is a discussion at the Council meeting with all the members about it. He said that Mt. Greylock and the Boston Harbor Islands will take a lot of time for people to get to, and that there needs to be buy in from the entire committee since its won’t be good to plan a location if members can’t make it there.

Chair Smiley agreed and said that the in-person meetings are important to get out and see DCR locations, but it is a commitment that should be discussed.

Councilor Harper said that they should be mindful what they ask of everyone since a place like Mt. Greylock may be seven hours of driving for a two-hour meeting for the majority of the members.

Councilor Smith suggested revisiting the idea of Mt. Holyoke as a location out west.

Councilor Crane said that Mt. Holyoke would be a good place for a meeting if there wasn’t the desire to drive all the way to North Adams. He mentioned events like grand opening and said it would be great to have notice so councilors can attend.

Councilor Ortiz agreed and said that she loves the idea of going out to different communities and having less formal discussions with people in other areas of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Perry told the committee that he now attends a bi-weekly events meeting so he can be up to date on what events are happening and share the info with the Stewardship Council.

Chair Smiley asked the committee if they would like to keep doing four in-person meetings next year.

The committee agreed that they would.

The committee decided to change the first in-person meeting from March to April and to have the meeting at Borderland State Park in Easton.

Chair Smiley asked about the Boston Harbor Islands and if councilors still wanted to hold a meeting there.

Councilor Smith said he wasn’t sure how many outside stakeholders would be able to attend a meeting on the islands.

Chair Smiley said that she has enthusiasm about doing a meeting there and that if a boat is coordinated, it shouldn’t be a problem.

The committee agreed that the June in-person meeting will take place at the Boston Harbor Islands.

Chair Smiley asked if Mt. Holyoke or Great Falls Discovery Center would be a better location than Mt. Greylock for a meeting in the western part of the state.

Councilor Crane said either would be good, but Mt. Holyoke might be a little easier for everyone to get to.

The committee agreed that the September in-person will take place at Mt. Holyoke Range State Park in Amherst.

Councilor Smith said that he thinks it would be good to meet again at the DCR Headquarters at 10 Park Plaza during the day so that DCR staff have the opportunity to attend.

The committee agreed that the December in-person meeting will take place at the Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza in Boston.

Chair Smiley suggested that the four in-person meetings start at 1pm instead of 9am so councilors and the public have time to get to the locations.

Councilor Smith moved to make the changes that were discussed and to present the list of meeting dates and locations to the full council for approval.

Councilor Ortiz seconded the motion.

The council approved the meeting schedule and will present it the full council.

## Other Business

Chair Smiley said that Mr. Perry is working on getting parking and a shuttle for councilors for the December meeting at the Massachusetts State House. She said that Mr. Perry is also working to get citations to present to Chair Buckley from legislators to recognize his time as chair of the council.

Councilor Smith said that when former chair Nate Walton stepped down, Councilor Canedy got an engraved gift for him and asked councilors to contribute to the cost. He said that something similar should be done for Chair Buckley and suggested that they could do it at the State House meeting with some social time after.

Councilor Ortiz liked the idea and suggested that they do a gavel again like they did for Mr. Walton. She asked if a social hour would happen right after the meeting.

Councilor Smith said that in the past, they have stayed at the State House for coffee and donuts for councilors, legislators, and legislative staff to come by and mingle. He said that having something like this would be better than making a quick presentation during the meeting.

Councilor Harper asked if DCR would cover the cost for something like this.

Mr. Perry said that he wasn’t sure.

Councilor Harper said that at the next meeting, she would like to discuss councilor terms. She said that she has talked to all of the councilors whose terms are expiring next year about what they would like to do.

The committee decided they will meet again on November 22 at 8am.

## Adjournment

Councilor Harper moved to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Smith seconded the motion.

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)