



**Department of Conservation and Recreation Stewardship Council
Stakeholders Committee Meeting**

Via Videoconference
November 4, 2022 | 10:30am to 11:30am

November Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Jack Buckley, Melissa Harper, Vivian Ortiz, Susan Smiley, Ted Dooley,

Committee Members Absent: Dennis Smith

DCR Staff Attendees Nick Connors, Matthew Perry

Public Attendees as Registered: None

Call to Order – Committee Chair Susan Smiley

Chair Smiley welcomed the attendees, took attendance of Councilors, and went over the meeting agenda. Chair Smiley then invited the new DCR Manager of Stewardship Programs and Strategic Initiatives Matt Perry to speak.

Matt Perry Introduction

Matt Perry introduced himself and talked about the work he has been doing in support of the committee and the Stewardship Council. He noted that he is trying to talk to all councilors individually over the phone before the full council meeting next Thursday.

Director of Partnerships Position

Chair Smiley asked for an update on the Director of Partnerships position at DCR previously held by Jenny Norwood who recently left the agency. Deputy Commissioner Nick Connors was present to speak about the position.

Mr. Connors informed the committee that David Burnes is the new Director of Partnerships for DCR and that he wanted to come to the meeting to introduce himself but was sick. He explained that Mr. Burnes began working at DCR while Ms. Norwood was still there and that although he has taken on responsibilities from Ms. Norwood's former position, Mr. Burnes position is different from the one she held and he is not a replacement for her.

Mr. Connors told the committee that he is currently working on a job description to hire a replacement for Ms. Norwood and that this description will be different based on DCR's strategic readiness initiative.

Chair Smiley asked Mr. Connors for the existing job description for the position to base the committee's work on going forward.

Mr. Connor's said he will attempt to get the description to the committee as well as an update on the Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) scrum.

Partner Presentation Requests

The committee reviewed requests submitted through the Stewardship Council website by partner groups to present at upcoming Stewardship Council meetings.

Councilor Melissa Harper introduced the recent submissions to the committee and spoke about revisiting the process of recommending organizations for presentation. She noted that in the past, recommendations went to the Council Chair because the committee could not meet and make final decisions without violating public meeting law. Now that the committee meetings were public meetings, Councilor Harper suggested that the committee make the decisions at their meetings and Matt Perry can do the outreach to groups going forward.

New Requests

The committee received five new requests that needed review between April 28, 2022 and October 24, 2022. The requests were from Hull Artists Studio Connection, Community Rowing, Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation, Friends of the Stony Brook Reservation, and T-Mobile.

After discussion, it was decided that Community Rowing, Friends of the Middlesex Fells, and Friends of Stony Brook would be invited to speak at an upcoming council meeting after discussion with the groups directly about what the presentations will be about.

The Committee decided not to move forward with Hull Artists Studio Connection for now given the nature of their submission and the ongoing conversation between the group and DCR staff over the use of an old police station on DCR property that is in disrepair and a flood zone.

The Committee also decided not to move forward with T-Mobile since they are not a partner organization in the way that is defined by the agency.

Old Requests

The Committee decided not to reengage with the Sierra Club after reaching out to them twice about presenting at a meeting and not getting a response.

A submission from an individual, Ken Carlson, was discussed, and it was decided it was more appropriate for him to speak during the public comment section of an upcoming meeting. Councilor Vivian Ortiz indicated that Mr. Carlson recently spoke during a public comment period. Matt Perry will review the recent public comments and will reach out to Mr. Carlson if appropriate.

Future Council Meetings

Chair Smiley said she would like the committee to make a recommendation to the council about meetings going forward regarding in-person, hybrid, and fully virtual meetings.

The upcoming December 8, 2022, meeting of the Council will be at the Massachusetts State House and starts at 10:00am. Councilor Ortiz asked if the meeting will be hybrid. Mr. Perry responded that it will

not be, but he will be checking with the Attorney General's office about whether it can be livestreamed without any public comment from viewers of the stream.

Mr. Connors noted that the agency is not capable of doing hybrid at most DCR sites because of internet accessibility. He said that the best places for hybrid meetings are regional offices and heritage sites.

Chair Smiley suggested creating a survey to share with Stewardship Council members to get preferences on locations, setup (hybrid, virtual, on site), time options, whether they can meet on weekends and nights, and to get a feel for what the majority of the council has the desire to do.

Council Chair Jack Buckley would like Committee reports as opposed to breakout sessions at upcoming council meetings, instead having the committees meet separately before the full council meets. He also stated that he has seen an increased number of attendees since virtual meetings have started.

The committee will report to the entire council that they will be doing a survey and the discussion will take place at the December meeting. Chair Smiley and Mr. Perry will collaborate on the survey.

Future Committee Meetings

Chair Smiley asked the committee members if they can commit to 10:30am on the Friday before a full council meeting as a regular time for the committee to meet.

Councilor Ortiz said she would prefer 7:30am or 8:00am because of work commitments.

Councilor Ted Dooley indicated that he would prefer an 8:00am meeting.

Councilor Harper said that her schedule changes, and because of that they can set a regularly scheduled time and make sure we can have a quorum, and she will attend when she is able to.

Adjournment

Chair Smiley thank everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Committee has not been set.

Please check the DCR Stewardship Council webpage for notice of upcoming meetings.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council>