# Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Wilson, Jeff Collins, Ann Canedy, Phil Doherty

**Other Councilors Present:** Dicken Crane, Jack Buckley

DCR Staff Attendees: Matthew Perry

## Call to Order and Welcome – Committee Chair Jennifer Wilson

Chair Wilson welcomed the attendees and went over the meeting agenda.

## South Coast RMPs

Chair Wilson told the committee that she received a message from Paul Cavanagh and that everything was shaping up well with the South Coast RMPs, and that they were on target for a presentation on them at the November 9 Council meeting.

## Strategic Oversight Plan

As a follow up to the Strategic Oversight Plan that was approved by the council at the October meeting, Chair Wilson said that she will discuss with Commissioner Arrigo about coming together to discuss goals. She asked the committee to give the plan another read through so they can continue to discuss it and its implementation as a committee.

## Natural Resources Committee

Councilor Collins thanked Councilor Crane for proposing the committee and advancing it. He shared his screen to show the committee’s charge and changes that he made.

He said that one suggested change is the name of the committee because the term natural resource may be outdated as far as looking at nature just as a resource. He asked if anyone had ideas for another term that captures nature in a different way without confusing the issue or overthinking it. He suggested the Conservation Committee, but worried that is what describes the whole Stewardship Council’s responsibility. Councilor Collins also spoke about the goal of having presentations from DCR staff about issues such as land protection goals and wildlife protection, saying that they’ve gotten presentations from outside groups but not DCR on those subjects. He said that the committee would bring attention to those topics and elevate them and that this is important in the context of the Forest as Climate Solutions initiative and the Governor’s Biodiversity Goals.

Councilor Crane said that he agrees about the committee name, noting that resource brings to mind commercial or economic value which is not what the committee will be focused on. He added that for the scope of the committee, there will be the opportunity for the public to bring issues to the council’s attention, and for DCR staff to present on goals.

Councilor Canedy said that the words natural resources bring to mind birds, animals, meadows, etc.

Chair Wilson said that she agrees with Councilor Canedy that this is the common understanding, but that the leading edge understanding is more in line with what Councilors Collins and Crane describe. She added that Conservation Committee is good and descriptive, but that she struggles a little with what the whole group is supposed to be about. She also said that they need to be aware that calling it the Conservation Committee may lead people to ask where the Recreation Committee is. She asked if the working title can be the Conservation Committee.

Councilor Collins suggested that they call it that and bring it to the whole council to see if there are any objections.

Councilor Crane spoke about the Greylock Glen project and how it was an example of something that the committee could take on.

Councilor Collins made the distinction that if there is a new campsite that is conflicting with the conservation mission of the agency, that is something that this committee could look in to, but if it is a local community concerned about the design of a project, that may be more appropriate for the Stakeholders Committee.

Councilor Crane agreed that this was a good distinction.

Councilor Collins asked if it was common for DCR staff to join committee meetings.

Councilor Buckley said yes, and that it was a good way to build relationships. He said that the Finance Committee meets with the finance staff and the stakeholders committee meets with partnership staff. He added that there will be a larger constellation of staff to draw from for this new committee but that it is better to stick to generic things and to leave specific projects for regular meetings.

It was agreed that the new committee will be presented to the full council at the November 9 meeting for approval.

## Approval of Minutes

Councilor Canedy made a motion to approve the August 29, 2023 meeting minutes.

Councilor Collins seconded.

### ***Roll Call on the Approval of Minutes***

Councilor Canedy: Yes

Councilor Collins: Yes

Councilor Doherty: Yes

Chair Wilson: Yes

The August minutes were approved.

Councilor Canedy made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes.

Councilor Collins seconded.

### ***Roll Call on the Approval of Minutes***

Councilor Canedy: Yes

Councilor Collins: Yes

Councilor Doherty: Yes

Chair Wilson: Yes

The September minutes were approved.

## Adjournment

Chair Wilson thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.

*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)