# September 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Susan Smiley, Ted Dooley, Laura Jasinski, Dennis Smith

DCR Staff Attendees: Matthew Perry

Members of the Public: David Altman St. Pierre, Bill Boles

## 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:*

David Altman St. Pierre, Beverly

## Approval of Minutes

The approval of the July 26, 2024 was deferred to the next meeting.

## Recap of August 12, 2024 Listening Session

Chair Smiley said that Councilor Harper will be recapping the listening session. She asked if members of the committee had any feedback on the session.

Councilor Jasinski said that she thought Chair Smiley ran a great meeting and that it was efficient and gave people the chance to talk about what is important to them. She said that they want to turn the things that were heard into something that is solution oriented, but that they don’t want to overpromise what DCR is able to do. She suggested that there be breakout groups about the issues that were brought up. She said that having a report on the session and sharing next steps are important for transparency, and that there are things that can be acted on before the next session. She asked if in the future if they should ask for people to think about ways to support DCR to make them part of the solutions, that way it is constructive and not just people bringing issues.

Chair Smiley said that breakout sessions will be useful during an in-person session.

Councilor Jasinski said that it is sometimes difficult for people to attend in person and that they want to have DCR guide what will be most useful and can move things forward that DCR is working on.

Councilor Smith said that participation was much better than I expected since it was in August, and he thought that the session was really good.

Chair Smiley said that they would discuss more during the October meeting when Councilor Harper returns.

## Trails Conference

Chair Smiley shared that at the upcoming Trails Conference happening in Worcester on October 26, she will be presenting about how to use the Stakeholders Committee and Council for Friends and Partners to be heard. She said after the presentation, it will organically go into a listening session.

Mr. Perry said that because of Open Meeting Laws, the entire committee will not be able to present, but that one or two other councilors could join Chair Smiley.

## Partnership Presentation Request

Mr. Perry said that a friends group that recently formed for the Chestnut Hill Reservoir requested to present.

Councilor Smith said that it would be interesting to hear a presentation on why a friends group forms, but that they wouldn’t want it to turn into a complaint session.

Chair Smiley said that she think the group would be positive to hear from, but that they want to sort out when a good time to bring them in would be.

Councilor Jasinski asked how other members balance groups that they are involved with presenting to the council.

Chair Smiley said that groups she has been involved in have presented and she has allowed other councilors to ask questions. She also suggested that Mass Parks For All might be a good group to give a presentation.

Chair Smiley welcomed Bill Boles of NEMBA to the meeting.

## Other Business

Mr. Perry told the committee that Fran Blanchard has joined the DCR staff as the Senior Director of Strategic Readiness Initiatives.

## Adjournment

Councilor Smith moved to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Jasinski 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)