



Meeting Minutes

Stewardship Councilors in Attendance: *Walter Bickford, Michele Hanss, Elisa Campbell, Heather Clish, Toni Pollak, Nate Walton, Wayne Klockner, Whitney Hatch*

DCR Staff in Attendance: *Andy Backman, Lisa Barstow, Richard Corsi, Stephen Doody, Joe Rotondo, Jacqueline Ryan*

Stewardship Councilors Absent: *Jim Van Dyke, Dennis Smith*

Public Attendees: *Bill Boles (NEMBA-Friends of Wompatuck), Jackson Garry (Sachem Strategies)*

Attachments: [Nantasket Beach Reservation Master Plan](#) (online)

Chairman Hatch called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

- Chairman Hatch reviewed the agenda
- Chairman Hatch asked whether or not there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda
- Chairman Hatch noted that the Agile Scrum update would be presented in September where upon Commissioner Roy suggested a cogent analysis could be given

Commissioner's Report – Leo Roy, Commissioner

- DCR is continuing the process of gauging public interest in off-leash dog recreation areas within communities where support has previously been strong. This week, we held a public meeting in the Town of Winthrop to discuss the idea of an off-leash area within the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. Recently, the DCR informed stakeholders in Jamaica Plain that an off-leash area within Southwest Corridor Park was not supported by abutters, and we are exploring alternate locations that would satisfy the community's needs.
 - Two council members spoke out about the difficulties of “dog parks” and/or “dog recreation” areas.

- Other public meetings throughout June were well attended, including for presentations on the Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion Planning Project, Morrissey Boulevard's Redesign for Reconstruction, Short-Term Improvements at the Intersection of Fellsway East and Highland Avenue in Malden, and pre-construction plans for Winthrop Shore Drive and Upland Improvements.
- With the FY18 budget now almost finalized for DCR, we anticipate a tighter fiscal situation than FY17. As A&F works to provide us with final spending numbers over the next several weeks, I am collaborating with our finance team to develop strategies for maximizing retained revenue across our parks system while keeping a tight lid on operational spending. This two-pronged approach will allow us to continue working to provide basic services across the system while planning for targeted capital investments that have been identified as priorities for the coming year.
- Our current Agile Scrum release is nearing its end. Our asset management team will be providing a final Scrum update next month, and our internal communications team will be working throughout August to prepare for monthly meetings between myself and regional staff. At the same time, complex-level distribution lists are being reorganized and will be shared with complex leaders to encourage greater communication on projects and initiatives that have the potential to impact visitor and employee access to our parks and facilities.
- This past weekend, we celebrated another successful International Sand Sculpting Festival at Revere Beach, which was featured as part of Boston 25's Zip Trip and may be featured by the Travel Channel as well. As you know, approximately half a million visitors enjoy this festival each year, and we were pleased to see smooth operations and an enjoyable experience once again this year.
- Due to weather, we postponed an event announcing the opening of Segment 1 of the Blackstone Greenway, which is part of a trail system that has proposed linking Worcester to Providence via a 48-mile multi-use pathway that reaches through the Blackstone Heritage Corridor's 24 communities. We are continuing to explore alternate dates for this announcement.
- On Wednesday, we celebrated the completion of \$2.6 million in investments made to the Veterans War Memorial Tower at the summit of Mount Greylock. Now in its 84th year, the tower is the Commonwealth's official memorial to veterans and has seen upgrades to its filtration and dehumidification systems as well as greater accessibility features to ensure all visitors are able to enter and appreciate the facility's history and character.
- On July 12, we announced a third year of Governor Baker's Summer Nights initiative, which provides children and families in urban communities with extended hours and programming at several of DCR's pools and playgrounds. This year we were able to allocate \$150,000 toward the initiative, which also supports community organizations like the Urban League of Springfield and the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence with additional programming and transportation for children and families on summer weekdays.
- That same day, our park staff held a series of celebratory gatherings, readings, storywalks, and more at Walden Pond and various locations throughout the state where Henry David Thoreau once traveled. These events to celebrate the author's 200th birthday will be complemented by an interpretive exhibit at Walden Pond which will open to the public on August 2.

- The Department of Conservation and Recreation sent yacht and boat club permit packages to operators in August of 2016.
 - The new permits highlight several changes, including: permits will be issued for five years instead of one year to reduce administrative cost and time; there will be a rate adjustment that will increase gradually each year; and a requirement that boat and yacht clubs provide appropriate public access to public park land.
 - The agency is now seeking to follow-up with these clubs regarding the implementation of said public access at these locations and will work with the clubs individually so that each organization can implement an appropriate and mutually acceptable public access, outreach, and stewardship program appropriate for these organizations.
 - Prior to doing so, the DCR would appreciate the Stewardship Council's thoughts and ideas regarding what appropriate access could potentially mean for these clubs keeping in mind that yacht and boat clubs vary in size and memberships.
- Commissioner Roy introduced Richard Corsi, DCR Senior Planner to present on the Nantasket Beach Reservation Master Plan

Special Business

- Mr. Corsi provided an abridged review of the [Nantasket Beach Reservation Master Plan](#) (entirety available via link).

Committee Updates

n/a

Approval of Minutes

- Chairman Hatch motioned to accept the July 2017 minutes and the motion was seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment

Bill Boles, constituent and member of the Friends of Wompatuck State Park noted the Friends have raised money for a new playground and worked cooperatively to introduce a “pump track”—mountain-bike trail for children—at the park at no cost to DCR; a project in partnership with sports retailer REI.

Next Meeting Schedule

Friday, September 8, 2017 at Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

There being no objection, Chairman Hatch adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m.