



Department of Conservation and Recreation
Stewardship Council Meeting
September 8, 2017 | 12 to 2 p.m.
Holyoke Heritage State Park
221 Appleton Street | Holyoke, MA 01040

Meeting Minutes

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

DCR Staff in Attendance: *Andy Backman, Lisa Barstow, Joe Rotondo, Stephen Doody, Julie Martin, Mat Cahill*

Stewardship Councilors Absent: *Jim Van Dyke Nate Walton*

Public Attendees: *Susan Masino, Friends of Peru State Forest*

Attachments: *Presentations by Julie Martin and Mat Cahill*

Chairman Hatch called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Commissioner's Report – Leo Roy, Commissioner

- As recently reported, the DCR was happy to reach a resolution with TD Garden regarding compensation for a lack of annual fundraisers that were required to be held in support of recreational activities. It was determined that since 1993 TD Garden owed DCR \$1.65 million. Combined with an additional \$1 million to be contributed in support for a new ice rink in Boston, the Commonwealth has now committed over \$8 million toward a cause championed by an intrepid group of teenagers from Hyde Park, Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. We are proud to see that all proceeds from TD Garden will go toward their cause.
- DCR recently held a public meeting to lay out the results of the 2016 Deer Management Plan for the Blue Hills Reservation and solicit feedback from the public on the need for continued management in 2017. This year's plan calls for additional acreage and bow hunting, and as expected the number of opponents outnumbered those in support. We are continuing to review feedback during a public comment period and will decide the final outcome for this year's management plan at a later date.
- We were also proud this month to complete a new \$500,000 boardwalk at the Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, updating an important facility that will enable the public to visit, explore, and learn from the beauty of the natural world.

- In partnership with the 300 Committee Land Trust, the DCR announced that 8.5 acres of land will be added to the preservation inside the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks to the generosity of the Teixeira family, this Falmouth property was able to be purchased for strictly conservation purposes and will be protected in perpetuity by the DCR as part of the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- DCR's Bureau of Fire Control provided assistance to our northern neighbors this month, with 16 fire fighters traveling to British Columbia Canada to help battle wildland fires that have consumed over one million acres of Canada's most western province. We were thankful to see all the young men return home safely and without serious injury.

Special Business - Presented by *Mat Cahill, Forest Stewardship Administrators*

- Presentation of the DCR's "Greening the Gateway Cities" Program
 - Chairman Hatch inquired about number of cities presently involved. Answer is eight.
 - A Councilor questioned about methane leaks and volunteering to test. UMass Amherst and Clark University Graduate Students manage follow up testing and research.
 - Councilor Pollak inquired how many parks were involved and Mat Cahill answered by stating now 30,000 Commonwealth residents have a connection to a tree.

Councilor Clish discussed November 2 advocacy day and topics to discuss with legislators [budget is flat for 2018].

Discussion ensued about conservation mission of DCR and all the other tactical and expertise DCR brings to bear on state's water supply, waterways, roads and bridges, climate mitigation and management.

Special Business II – Presented by *Julie Martin, Director of Visitor Programs and Services*

- Presentation of results/accomplishments of DCR's "Communications Scrum Team"
 - Councilor Pollack inquired about new online constituent response process which Julie explained. System continues to be tested and improved; rolled out in one region at a time.
 - Councilor Campbell inquired if dog-related issues are top complaint [not likely but do not yet have the data].

Committee Updates

No committee updates

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Chairman Hatch, seconded by Councilor Clish to accept the July 2017 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment

Susan Masino, on behalf of Friends of Peru State Forest, spoke in opposition of logging at Peru State Forest and submitted for the record documentation in support of this motivation (copies available upon request).

Next Meeting Schedule

Friday, October 6 at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum 1904 Canton Ave, Milton, MA 02186 at noon (since amended to Fort Independence, Castle Island 2010 Day Blvd., Boston 02127).

There being no objection, Chairman Hatch adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.