



Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Stewardship Council Meeting  
November 3, 2017 | 12 - 2PM  
Melnea A. Cass Recreation Complex  
120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. | Roxbury, MA

## Meeting Minutes

**Stewardship Councilors in Attendance:** *Whitney Hatch, Michele Hanss, Toni Pollak, Nate Walton, Heather Clish, Dennis Smith, David C. Murphy*

**DCR Staff in Attendance:** *Stephen Doody, Lisa Barstow, Joe Rotondo*

**EEA Staff in Attendance:** *Kathleen Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*

**Stewardship Councilors Absent:** *Jim Van Dyke, Walter Bickford, Wayne Klockner, Elisa Campbell*

**Public Attendees:** *Bill Boles, North American Mountain Bike Association; Alexi Conie, The Esplanade Association; Sarah Freeman, Arborway Coalition; Vivian Ortiz, Neponset River Greenway Council; Julia O'Brien*

**Attachments:** *Climate Readiness and Resilience Presentation (will be available online)*

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

### Commissioner's Report – Leo Roy, Commissioner

- The DCR was busy this summer at the Melnea Cass Complex continuing work on the spray deck, which we anticipate will be ready for Spring 2018. In the case of Cass, popularity is a good problem to have. We anticipate the spray deck alleviating overcrowding at the pool and ideally will allow for adult swimming lanes for longer hours.
- We have also added curtains to the main gymnasium allowing for simultaneous, multi-use space for growing programming. And we welcome the many senior citizens who walk the periphery of the track in a climate-controlled setting throughout the summer and winter.
- Since our last meeting, the rinks season has begun with vigor. Earlier this month, Deputy Commissioner Nick Gove led reporters and elected officials on a tour of the renovated Murphy Rink in South Boston, which just saw the completion of \$5 million in repairs to transform the facility into a high-quality space for winter recreation. A brand new ice surface, high-efficiency compressor, energy-efficient roof and interior finishing have made the rink sparkle and hum with the noise of happy patrons. Additionally, strong new

leadership is producing results at our Lowell and Newburyport rinks, and we are currently working with the Town of Saugus to address operational issues at its town-run rink.

- Our operations staff successfully conducted another Head of the Charles this year, with tens of thousands of spectators and participants gracing our parks along the Charles River. No major incidents or accidents occurred, allowing the event to continue as planned.
- Regarding the redesign of Morrissey Boulevard, DCR continues to meet with civic/neighborhood associations in Dorchester to better explain the changes that will be presented in an upcoming fourth public meeting. Two meetings have been held so far, with another four planned for November and early December.
- In Brewster, we also hosted the first public meeting on a proposed extension of the Cape Cod Rail Trail from Route 6A through DCR land and to the Cape Cod Bay. The proposal, which takes advantage of property untouched for decades, received a positive response from residents and users of both the Cape Cod Rail Trail and Nickerson State Park. Following a public comment period, we will work to finalize the design and hope to return to the town in February for more input and permitting.
- A final schematic design has been reached for the Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion and was presented to the public on Wednesday. The proposal involves a two-story complex with a multi-use indoor floor, covered patio space and a roof garden. As part of a broader effort to revitalize the Esplanade's Lee Pool area and Lower Basin, this pavilion would reclaim significant greenspace, reducing the current 116,000 square-foot paved area to a 47,000 square-foot porous area.
- As part of Executive Order 562, the DCR issued draft regulations for public comments and hearings regarding parkways, traffic, and pedestrian rules, as well as parks and recreation rules. These draft regulations, which were published in various papers during August, did not specifically address e-bikes, though two comments from cycling organizations suggested how e-bikes should be classified and managed by the agency. Final regulations must now be submitted to EEA for its review prior to promulgation with the Secretary of State.
- Preparations for the Blue Hills Deer Hunt continue, and our Chief DCR Ranger Jennifer Stowe will be presenting an update to the Council next month. At this point, we've selected the hunters for both shotgun and archery, orientations for both groups is ongoing. Monday starts the archery hunt, and after Thanksgiving the shotgun hunt begins.

### **Special Business**

- Member Heather Clish provided an update of the environmental lobby day.
- Chairman Hatch commented on advocacy for tax-exemption of Curatorship Program.
- Chairman Hatch introduced new member David C. Murphy.
- Kathleen Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs presented the administration's climate strategy consistent with Executive Order 569. (Presentation will be available online.)

- Discussion arose about planning 2018 meeting dates and locations. A sub-committee would work with Commissioner's Office on a draft schedule for next meeting.
- Heather Clish asked for time to study new regulations, especially pertaining to e-bikes.
- Chairman Hatch asked Ms. Clish to look into the funding needed to bring DCR lifeguard pay into parity with the City of Boston.

### **Committee Updates**

n/a

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Chairman Hatch motioned to accept the September 2017 minutes and the motion was seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- October minutes require correction due to an error in reporting member attendance. Revised October minutes will be presented in November for approval.

### **Public Comment**

- Bill Boles rose to speak on anniversary and growth of the North American Mountain Bike Association and concerns on [excessive] speed of e-bikes.
- Sarah Freeman rose to speak on attendance at lobby day, advocate against DOT managing parkways, seeks more bikes on Arborway and a reconstruction update.
- Vivian Ortiz rose to thank DCR on Neponset Greenway extension, need to remove branches after recent storms, adding "culturally-relevant signage" on Greenway, concerns of some bikes moving too fast on Neponset Greenway, problem of biking on Morrissey Blvd., growth of Mattapan on Wheels membership, continuing to create better biking infrastructure and thank you for another beautiful Pumpkin Float event.

### **Next Meeting Schedule**

Breakheart Reservation, Saugus – Friday, December 8, 2017

There being no objection, Chairman Hatch adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m.