



Meeting Minutes

Stewardship Councilors in Attendance: *Walter Bickford, , Elisa Campbell, Heather Clish, Toni Pollak, Nate Walton, Whitney Hatch, Dennis Smith*

DCR Staff in Attendance: *Andy Backman, Lisa Barstow, Joe Rotondo*

EAA Staff in Attendance: *Faye Boardman*

Stewardship Councilors Absent: *Jim Van Dyke, Wayne Klockner, Michele Hanss, David C. Murphy*

Public Attendees: *Bill Boles, NEMBA – North American Mountain Bike Association*

Attachments: *Asset Management Presentation*

Chairman Hatch called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Commissioner's Report – Leo Roy, Commissioner

- Commissioner Roy shared history of Castle Island and its special role in the abolitionist movement.
- A video produced by partner organization Education First (EF) about the value and values of DCR was shown. This was unveiled just days after EF purchased a full-page advertisement in The Boston Globe thanking DCR for its work and mission. Chairman Hatch suggest DCR look into creating a :30 version of the video.
- Commissioner Roy joined Education First officials and Governor Baker to break ground on EF3, the organization's third headquarters which will be constructed at North Point Park. In exchange for allowing EF to build its campus on DCR land, the organization has supported DCR with its soil remediation efforts and has plans to construct tennis courts, a soccer field, and other park amenities that will be available to all residents at no cost.
- Commissioner Roy noted the Head of the Charles Regatta was upcoming and DCR was ready for its large impact on the Charles River Reservation. Chairman Hatch is a participant in the Regatta.
- Discussion arose by a councilor about the next planned Deer Hunt at the Blue Hills queried Commissioner Roy about the types of hunting permitted.

- This past month, Commissioner Roy joined Lt. Governor Karyn Polito to announce \$1.8 million in grants to 49 communities for recreational trail projects. The DCR was fortunate to see Governor Baker increase the Recreational Trails Program by \$600,000 this year, allowing us to invest in more than 10 miles of new trails and improvements to 150 miles of existing recreational trails within the statewide trail network. With many awards matched by local communities, these funds support not only recreation but also new multi-modal networks between communities that can be utilized by ATV, snowmobile, bicycle and on foot.
- Commissioner Roy joined Secretary Beaton and Don Henley of the Walden Woods Project to unveil new exhibits at Walden Pond State Reservation which will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the life and legacy of Henry David Thoreau. Park goers can study a detailed 3D model of the reservation, read from exhibits on the Walden family and their pencil-making business, and view original artifacts from Thoreau's time here. The DCR is proud to partner with the Walden Woods Project to encourage all outdoor enthusiasts to ask: Where's Your Walden? Through this interactive experience, DCR hopes and expects more people to ask themselves that same question.
- Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has taken an interest in DCR's progress to transform Morrissey Boulevard into an urban parkway that better connects the residents of South Boston and Dorchester with their waterfront. Following a meeting with the Mayor, DCR will now meet with various civic associations about the proposed design ahead of its next public meeting, which is expected to take place this fall.
- DCR's MassParks staff is continuing to explore what recreational opportunities will be offered this winter, most notably camping, which unfortunately was delayed last season due to necessary upgrades at several facilities. A discussion about rinks opening soon and notable issues on rink maintenance were mentioned by Commissioner Roy.
- Commissioner Roy met with operators of the Blue Hills Ski Area to ensure DCR's most popular venues for winter recreation have everything they need to welcome thousands of daily visitors to our hillsides, trails, and anywhere that supports wintertime outdoor activities.
- Renovations to Murphy Rink in South Boston have been extremely successful, and a new compressor will ensure that our facility has top-of-the-line ice production from its first day of the season to its last. In just over a week, we'll proudly be able to open the facility nearly a month ahead of schedule.
- Blue Hills Deer Management preparations are continuing with logistics for the public lottery, tracking participants during the hunt and enforcing the hunt's physical boundaries to ensure public safety.
- Preparations are underway for Head of the Charles, which will grace our shores and urban parklands starting Saturday, October 21st. As always, the DCR looks forward to working with event personnel to ensure another safe and smooth operation.

Special Business

- Chief Operating Officer, Faye Boardman, of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs provided a detailed overview on DCR's Agile Scrum "Asset Management Modernization Project." Presentation is attached and will be made available on the DCR Internet.
- Councilors engaged in discussion about financing preventative and deferred maintenance of various facilities and incorporating issues into their upcoming advocacy day.

Committee Updates

- No committee updates, however, there was discussion about the collaboration of partner organizations for the upcoming environmental advocacy day on Beacon Hill in which councilors would participate on behalf of DCR.

Approval of Minutes

- Chairman Hatch noted insufficient attendance for a quorum so September minutes ratification will be deferred.
- Chairman Hatch noted a typographical error in the September minutes; which has since been corrected.

Public Comment

- Bill Boles of the New England Mountain Bike Association provided an update on use of the Middlesex Fells Trails for recreational use and good progress on the Torbert MacDonald Park Bridge project.
- He pointed out it is the NEMBA's 30th anniversary and growth to 27 chapters and was pleased with the relationship of hikers and mountain bikers on trails.
- A discussion ensued about the growing deer population, not just in the Blue Hills but at other parks with campgrounds such as Wompatuck State Park.
- A brief discussion was raised relative to a smartphone app, "Commonwealth Connections" as a constituent tracking tool. Commissioner Roy responded that DCR has its own new system.

Next Meeting Schedule

November 3, 2017, [Revised to: Cass Recreational Complex]

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