

FINAL MINUTES

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Advisory Committee (NHESAC)

October 12, 2023

DFW Field Headquarters, Southwest Meeting Room #103

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Meeting held remotely (Zoom)

MEMBERS:

Present: Wayne Petersen, Tim Flanagan, Bill Brumback, Matthew Sisk, Kevin Powers, David Small, Mark Mello

Absent: None

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Present: Andy Finton

Absent: Russ Hopping

AGENCY STAFF:

Present: Eve Schlüter, Mike Nelson, Jennifer Longsdorf, Jennifer Sulla, Tom French

OTHERS:

Present: Forty-two attendees

– The meeting was called to order at 1:34 P.M. –

1. Approval of the July Minutes

Dave Small motioned that the minutes of the September meeting be accepted, Tim Flanagan seconded, and members voted unanimously to approve.

2. Chair's Comments – Mark Mello

Mark made a roll call of voting members and all seven voting members acknowledged themselves.

3. Board Member's Comments – Matthew Sisk

- Matt noted Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll's recent state celebration of Climate Week which established the nation's first long-term biodiversity goals, and single-use plastic bottle ban for executive branch agencies. <https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-healey-celebrates-climate-week-by-establishing-nations-first-long-term-biodiversity-goals-single-use-plastic-bottle-ban>
- He indicated that a search is on-going for Eve Schlüter's replacement.
- He noted the state's involvement with GotOne, which is a Citizen Science app used to log catch data by anglers on striped bass. https://www.mass.gov/doc/stripped-bass-citizen-science-project-poster/download?_ga=2.174612257.2056925885.1697215448-

[2083408195.1687869796& gl=1*10qleen* ga*MjA4MzQwODE5NS4xNjg3ODY5Nzk2* ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTY5NzIxNTczNS4zLjEuMTY5NzIxNjQwMS4wLjAuMA..](https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-launches-new-climate-focused-forestry-initiative? gl=1*10qleen* ga*MjA4MzQwODE5NS4xNjg3ODY5Nzk2* ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTY5NzIxNTczNS4zLjEuMTY5NzIxNjQwMS4wLjAuMA..)

- He noted that a two-week extension on the deer archery season was made after the last Board meeting.

4. NHESP Report & Assistant Director's Report – Eve Schlüter

- Eve noted that MassWildlife and the Department of Fish and Game are involved in several new initiatives.
- She noted that applications for her Assistant Director position are being reviewed.
- She noted that the new Forests as Climate Solutions initiative for forest management is working towards a December goal. https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-launches-new-climate-focused-forestry-initiative? gl=1*3aovmn* ga*MjA4MzQwODE5NS4xNjg3ODY5Nzk2* ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTY5NzIxOTYyMS40LjEuMTY5NzIxOTczOC4wLjAuMA..
- Eve indicated that she is a representative on the new Healey commission looking at siting new energy infrastructure for the state. https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-healey-creates-commission-to-accelerate-siting-and-permitting-of-clean-energy-infrastructure? gl=1*xk291g* ga*MjA4MzQwODE5NS4xNjg3ODY5Nzk2* ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTY5NzIxNTczNS4zLjEuMTY5NzIxNzAyOC4wLjAuMA..
- She is also involved with the wind energy commission in a MassWildlife role.

5. Member's and Associate Member's Comments

Wayne Petersen – No comment

Bill Brumback – No comment

Tim Flanagan – No comment

Dave Small – No comment

Kevin Powers – No comment

Andy Finton – No comment

Russ Hopping – Not present

6. Discussion and Member Vote on MESA List Proposals – Lead by Mark Mello, Mike Nelson, and Eve Schlüter

- 432 species are listed on MESA in 2020.
- The purpose of this meeting was stated to be a discussion and vote on the 2023 MESA listings as proposed by the NHESP staff regarding invertebrate (5) and vertebrate (4*) species. The proposed listing for the Humpback Whale delisting was withdrawn.
- Eighteen species of plants were reviewed at the last meeting.
- Today's meeting and review will conclude the NHES Advisory Committee's role in the MESA process.

- List of vertebrate species (3) discussed, and votes taken:
 - Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Special Concern’.
 - Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Special Concern’.
 - Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Special Concern’.
- List of invertebrate species (5) discussed, and votes taken:
 - Golden Borer Moth (*Papaipema cerina*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Endangered’.
 - Acadian Hairstreak Butterfly (*Satyrrium acadica*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Threatened’.
 - Parnassia Miner Bee (*Andrena parnassiae*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Threatened’.
 - Macropis Cuckoo Bee (*Epeoloides pilosulus*) – 7 votes to list as ‘Threatened’.
 - Atlantic Horseshoe Crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) – 6 votes to NOT list and 1 vote to list as ‘Special Concern’. The proposal was to list as ‘Special Concern’.
- 2023 MESA process by the Committee was concluded.

Meeting was adjourned by motion at 3:25 P.M.

Drafted by: Kevin Powers
Submitted by: Kevin Powers