

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
JANUARY 28, 1998
GREAT BROOK FARM STATE PARK
CARLISLE, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, January 28, 1998 at Great Brook Farm State Park in Carlisle, MA.

Those in attendance were Vice Chairperson Debbie Cary, Secretary Elisa Campbell, Michael Last, Ron Smith and Patricia Karl. Absent was Chairperson Tad Ames. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Director of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, Director of the Office of Public Information Susan Hamilton, Park Supervisor Ray Faucher, Anita Wysocki, Warren Archey, Bill Rivers, Peter Brandenburg and Nina Danforth. Others present included Kristin DeBoer, James McCaffrey, Mark Bettencourt, Marilyn Lund and Jackie Davison.

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Elisa Campbell.

Patricia Karl moved to adopt the November minutes. Michael Last seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the November meeting minutes.

GREAT BROOK FARM OVERVIEW

Ray Faucher gave a brief overview of the park revealing its history as well as present day issues. According to Ray, the park was purchased in 1974 and at that time it was the most expensive purchase by DEM at \$4.3 million. In 1987, the public/private partnership with Mark and Tamma Duffy succeeded in creating an interpretive working commercial dairy farm, resulting in attendance figures soaring from 23,000 in 1986 to 186,000 in 1997. In addition to *Farm Days*, the 975 acre park offers many activities and events including 17 miles of hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking trails, a cross country skiing concession, and interpretive programs. Recently discovered archeological elements of the park including stone rows/walls and stone turtles are currently being researched as having potential significance to the Native American. Ray discussed the Curatorship program that will provide maintenance and improvements to the Litchfield House, a 19th century farmstead, by private citizens at no cost to the Commonwealth. Debbie Cary asked Ray what his one wish for the park would be and Ray responded that a Comfort Station Pavilion would provide for much needed water.

CENTENNIAL KICKOFF

Commissioner Webber noted that the Forests and Parks Centennial Kickoff Celebration held at the State House on January 26th had a great turnout for the varied program which included several schoolchildren from Lawrence

PARKS STUDY

Commissioner Webber discussed recommendations made in the parks study with particular focus on the *Parks College*, whose two aspects would be ongoing training of staff and best management practices. Michael Last asked if a feasibility study has been done, and Peter stated that it has not. Elisa Campbell suggested that while a *Parks College* is a great idea, money issues must be considered. Michael suggested working with other groups, grants, matching funds, etc. Debbie inquired about the Conservation Trust and Peter agreed that may be appropriate. Elisa expressed concern that the funds in the trust could be used for other things. Debbie said that a process should be in place to act on the parks study. Debbie suggested a sub committee to tackle the recommendations of the study. Debbie added that the merger

question should be tackled, studied and analyzed, and a recommendation should be made by the board. Peter informed the board that the strategy, in part, has been to focus on getting the rinks, pools and golf courses off budget. Susan Frechette is developing an RFR to go to the marketplace and test the theory that there is private sector interest. Peter continued by focusing on another recommendation that deals with Management Information Systems and basically making sure that decision makers have the tools needed to make the best decisions. Elisa stated that the board may remain most efficient if its focus remained on unmet needs. Board members agreed that a letter, circulated among board members, and sent to Undersecretary George Crombie highlighting aspects of the study that need further attention. Patricia Karl requested an ongoing report on the study to track the positive changes by category.

BUDGET AND SPENDING PLANS

Peter Webber informed the board that the Governor released the FY99 proposed budget. The Secretary had a public briefing for environmental organizations. An EOEAs wide increase in the operating budget brings the total to \$198.5 million.

Susan Frechette handed out and discussed a list highlighting DEM priorities. According to Susan, the department will have no money in its bond accounts for construction and rehabilitation by July. Board members determined that it could be helpful to send letters and make phone calls to legislators in support of additional funding

FORESTS AND PARKS ON WHEELS

Nina Danforth presented an update on the *Forests and Parks on Wheels* mobile educational van. According to Nina, Artist Robert Evans was selected to design a mural for one side of the van and Susan Ziegler is working on a map of Massachusetts for the other. The Holbeck Group will create the inside exhibit. Boston Gas has made a commitment of \$20,000 to the natural gas van. The van is expected to last 5-7 years. Nina encouraged input from board members. Debbie Cary recommended putting MSF&P on the side on the van for easy viewing.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT


According to Peter, there is interest in forming a campers advisory committee, made up of users, that could provide feedback on the reservation system and rate increases as well as other issues such as the resident/non-resident concern. Several board members questioned the current plan to implement campground rate increases in December 98/January 99 as opposed to sooner and Peter explained that there must be adequate public notice.

FORESTS AND PARKS REPORT

Todd Frederick along with Peter Brandenburg gave a brief update on the ORV policy. According to Peter, overall the policy has been successful. DEM has been meeting with user groups to negotiate new Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) for the coming season and to work together on specific trail projects. Peter also reported on the Americorp Group working out of Kenneth Dubuque Memorial State Forest in Hawley. The group will be working on trails in the spring.

OLD GROWTH POLICY

Bill Rivers and Warren Archey presented computer projected slides to report on a draft Old Growth Policy which included the following general policies: DEM's Definition of Old Growth, Preserve and Maintain Integrity of Existing Old Growth Stands, Manage for Old Growth Attributes, and Utilize Existing Land Use Zoning to "Restore" Old Growth. The need for more detailed, site specific policies was discussed for use at heavily used facilities such as Wachusett Mountain SR. Kristin DeBoer (Restore: The North Woods) assured the board that Restore would inform members of the policy so that they may support it. Kristin recommended that the policy be clear, with specific regard to Wachusett, that there are to be no new ski trails. Kristin suggested that snow making should have buffers. James McCaffrey (Sierra Club) noted the language used in the current draft policy such as "manipulative" activities and "special consideration" may need more clarification. James encouraged active as well as passive



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restoration in certain areas. James asked what the timeline is on establishing the policy and Todd responded that the policy will soon be released for comments and based on comments received about this draft policy, within a month, there will be a revised statewide policy.

DRC REPORT

Marty Suuberg reported that the housing study done at Mt. Greylock may be ready by the February board meeting. Workshops on an EIR have taken place. According to Marty, one of the next regulatory events to take place is the filing of a Determination of Applicability with the Town of Adams to determine where the wetlands are located with respect to the proposed golf course and to improve the methodology. Marty informed the board that the Mount Greylock Summit National Register Nomination has been approved by Massachusetts Historic.

Marty announced that the process for a management plan for the Boston Harbor Islands has begun. Debby asked for clarity of DEM's role with regards to the islands. Peter explained the new kind of National park area and the 3 to 1 ratio of funding whereby \$3 non-federal is matched with \$1 federal. The partnership is made up of the National Parks Service as the national designee, DEM, the city of Boston, as well as many other public and private organizations. Marty continued by reporting that construction done on the islands brought the discovery of a Native American archeological find.

According to Marty, work is being continued on the Plymouth Comfort Station. The National Geographic Project is on hold while they change management.

Marty informed the board that a meeting took place with the Walden Foundation to discuss the state of Walden. Highlights included the pilot carrying capacity study to begin at Walden and the development of the self-guided trail system. The foundation has donated a computer to the park.

Marty revealed that Echelon is the successful bidder for the Wachusett RFR for inventory.

BOARD CONCERNS

Debbie Cary inquired as to the status of appointing a new board member to replace Jeff Tranen. Peter responded that several candidates are being considered and nominations have been submitted to the Governor. Debbie recommended board involvement in the selection process. Peter added that there are currently two vacancies on the Walden Pond Board of Directors and that nominees must be Middlesex county residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Bettencourt asked the board to reconsider moving the 'Public Comment' segment to an earlier time slot on the agenda. Debbie agreed to an earlier time for issues to be brought before the board and addressed at the board's discretion.

Mark expressed concern relative to ORV discussions not being on the agenda and it was agreed to put 'ORV Update' on the March agenda.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be held on February 27, 1998 at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner, MA.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

February 27, 1998
Dunn Pond State Park
Gardner, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Friday, February 27, 1998 at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell and Ron Smith. Absent were Michael Last and Patricia Karl. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Director of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, Chief of Legal Services Kate Lewis, Chief Engineer Raul Silva and Acting Director of Land Acquisitions Christine Chisholm. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Marilyn Lund, Donna Brownell, James McCaffrey, Thomas Lynch and Evan Anderson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tad Ames.

DUNN POND STATE PARK OVERVIEW

Visitor Services Supervisor Joanna Heron presented a brief overview of the events, activities and services offered at the Dunn Pond SP as well as Gardner Heritage SP. Joanna demonstrated the use of an accessible sled which was used for the recent *Access to Snow - Universal Access Program* held at the park on February 1st. According to Joanna the tentative date for the *Access to Summer Program* is August 22nd.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the January meeting minutes. Ron Smith seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the January meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Peter Webber reported on the House Committee on Ways and means budget hearing that took place on February 26th, explaining that much of the focus was on the Centennial and 2nd Century Fund.

According to Peter, the committee is sending a written request for information on spending plans, which provides an opportunity for DEM to show how resources do not meet needs. The board discussed developing a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee members supporting the need for more funding. Peter added that a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) should provide feedback by the end of March on the long term leasing of skating rinks. Members of the Ways and Means Committee suggested that the rinks be repaired before they are turned over to the communities.

Peter informed the board of a meeting that took place with National Geographic, Marty Suuberg and Peter to discuss the proposed Cinema at Plymouth Rock. A new location was discussed and the suggestion that DEM look at variations such as a smaller screen and/or a smaller financial commitment.

Peter stated that future meetings will take place to keep the dialogue going.

Peter noted that a Parks College meeting took place with Undersecretary George Crombie, Michael Last, etc. to explore how the next steps should be taken towards the recommendation of the Parks Study.

According to Peter, Director of Conservation Trust Kelly Sinclair is looking into obtaining seed money from various foundations. Peter concluded that the board will be supplied with a written summary of the meeting. Elisa Campbell expressed concern that information and recommendations contained in the Parks Study with regard to underfunding are being ignored. Tad requested that the Parks Study stay on

the agenda for further updates and Debbie Cary agreed adding that the study may serve as a catalyst for positive change.

LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Kate Lewis handed out and discussed a list of land acquisitions that EOEA requested the board to review and approve for FY'98. Kate explained that under ordinary circumstances, the board approves only eminent domain takings pursuant to statute, but until the position of Director of Land Policy for EOEA is filled, EOEA has asked that the DEM Board approve or endorse DEM land acquisitions for the balance of the fiscal year. Tad stated that it would be the board's preference to receive similar lists of projects routinely. Kate asked for direction as to what information would interest the board and Debbie replied that the current list appeared to be very informative. Kate noted that Lands Committee materials go out monthly and she will have them sent to board members. Elisa Campbell moved to approve the projects listed. Ron Smith seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the following projects for FY'98: DeRis, Woodstock, Williams, Kennerson, Penfield, Newell, Cudhea, Prentiss, Gass and Dean.

Debbie Cary and Tad Ames asked for more information about the Hoosac Lake project in Cheshire and Peter responded that several issues would have to come together before DEM would move forward, such as a commitment by the Lake Association to take responsibility for ongoing maintenance. Kate added that the property has been tested for toxic waste and it is clean.

BUDGET

Susan Frechette reported that DEM is still pressing for support for bond reauthorization. Debbie stated that at the February meeting it was agreed to send a letter to all legislators seeking support. Elisa Campbell moved to approve a letter from the DEM Board to all legislators to seek support for DEM's capital bond reauthorization as discussed. Elisa Campbell moved. Ron Smith seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved sending a letter to all legislators to seek support for the reauthorization of DEM's bond.

DRC

Marty Suuberg reported that the Greylock Housing study will be unveiled in written form on March 24th in time for the Greylock Advisory Committee meeting. Board members will be sent a copy. According to Marty, discussions are needed on the timing of the program.

Marty informed the board of a meeting that took place with Commissioner Sullivan of the Massachusetts Highway department to discuss the Rt. 126 issue. Marty added that Commissioner Sullivan is very supportive and planning is moving forward.

Raul Silva updated the board on several major projects including: the Plymouth building study which has begun; significant renovations for Scusset Beach bathhouse; two new comfort stations at Nickerson State Park; the Lowell Rink roof which should be completed by the end of March with no loss of operating time; Wachusett Mt. down road repair which is going out for bid by the end of March; Purgatory Chasm site work which is ongoing; a water distribution system at Mt. Tom which will go to bid in mid March; the Lake Wyola development project which is back on track; Greylock Summit work on the tower, lodge and ski shelter which will resume in the Spring; dam repair and minor excavation at Hoosac Lake; and a new Visitor Center at Natural bridge SP. Ron Smith expressed concern about herbicide treatment of lakes and Peter suggested that lake management should be an agenda item. Raul concluded that a full and complete environmental inventory audit will be done

Marty concluded his report by informing the board that a noise study is being done on the windmill at Halibut to determine how much noise is too much.

FORESTS AND PARKS REPORT

Todd Frederick reported that once the building is completed at Halibut, an educational exhibit will interpret the history, natural resources, etc. of the park. An educational kiosk publication by Wachusett Mountain Associates is awaiting comments. According to Todd, a posting went out for seasonal interpreters and two interpreters for the Centennial van. Several staff members underwent four days training for search management and DEM now has ten accredited search managers. Todd stated that interviews for five full time rangers will take place next week. Todd also discussed the upcoming Supervisors Conference which will have a series of panelists from Massachusetts as well as other states. Todd reported that DEM is working to make one day permits for ATV use by out of state users easier to obtain. A meeting with Bill Barnes, President of a 4x4 Jeep user group, took place to discuss the use of DEM roads.

Todd discussed the host of events scheduled to take place at the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) beginning September 8th, including a tour of Boston Harbor Islands State Recreation Area on September 9th and a clambake on the 11th.

OLD GROWTH

Todd reported that based on comments received, significant changes have been made to the Draft Old Growth Policy since the February meeting. Todd noted that policy comments on the new Draft Old Growth Policy will be taken until March 10, 1998. Donna Brownell (WEST) stated that an Old Growth Definition Symposium is being sponsored by Harvard Forest and other organizations in November, and strongly urged DEM to take part. James McCaffrey (Massachusetts Sierra Club) asked for the board's support for a letter sent from the Sierra Club to the Wachusett Mountain Associates which discussed private use of public land. James recommended that the definition of old growth should be tied to the scientific definition and that a policy for Wachusett should be separate from a public policy. Elisa stated that the board should maximize the protection of trees on Wachusett. Thomas Lynch (Wachusett Mountain Advisory Council) commented that the council would like to see a clearer policy, which includes a policy for nonpublic land. Thomas also commented that the buffer zone to the resource area is not defined and that defined old growth at Wachusett still has snow boarding going through it. . Donna added that there are 7-8 trails that go through the old growth. Tad requested a one page report on Wachusett.

CAMPGROUND RATES

Peter reported that recommendations for increases in base rates for camping with a higher rate for nonresident based on the theory that Massachusetts tax payers already pay through taxes. According to Peter, the rate increases would begin with facilities that are already upgraded. Three categories of fees would be used based on level of improvements and quality of facility.

BOARD CONCERNS

Elisa handout out two articles: *State surplus is no reason to implement cuts* written by Elisa Campbell and published in the Amherst Bulletin on February 6, 1998, and *Heritage trees receive some extra TLC* written by Daniel J. Fitzgibbons and published in the UMass Campus Chronicle on February 13, 1998.

Debbie asked about the Historic Curatorship program and Peter responded that of the 27 properties, 6 have become part of the program and an RFPI has gone out for Nickerson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Lund requested that if the board meets at Walden, Ken Bassett be on the agenda. Marilyn added that the bank restoration at Walden is very fragile.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be on March 27, 1998, from 11:00am till 3:00pm at Holyoke Heritage State Park in Holyoke.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

March 27, 1998

Holyoke Heritage State Park

Holyoke, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Friday, March 27, 1998 at Holyoke Heritage State Park in Holyoke, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell and Ron Smith. Absent were Michael Last and Patricia Karl. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, Assistant to the Director of Forests and Parks Brian Shanahan, Anita Wysocki, Mike Gildesgame and Bob Hartzel. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Lawrence Tucker, Thomas F. Lynch, Charlene Coleman and Russell Peters.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tad Ames.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mt. Wachusett

Peter Webber stated that the next step in the MEPA process for the Wachusett Mountain Associates, Inc. proposal is the Notice of Project Change. According to Peter, DEM reserves its right and responsibility to comment independently and raise issues relative to the proposed project. DEM will be also be involved at the end of the process, through the lease, to review and approve specific actions on the ground. Debbie Cary discussed several public concerns as well as concerns from environmental organizations about the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) and suggested that the board request a supplemental EIR with more analysis and detail. Elisa Campbell noted that the proposal is not clear as to why run-off is not a problem. Elisa added that the draft EIR may be flawed as it denies that there is old growth on the mountain. Peter mentioned that it is appropriate for the board to express views and give DEM guidance on this matter. Debbie reiterated that capacity is a big issue. Debbie Cary made a motion to approve board recommendation to the Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Management to recommend a Supplemental EIR. Elisa Campbell seconded. All in favor.

By unanimous vote of all board members present, the board recommended to the Commissioner, that the Department of Environmental Management request a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from Wachusett Mountain Associates.

Chairman of the Mt. Wachusett Monitoring Board and Vice Chair of the Advisory Board Tom Lynch gave a four part presentation which included his involvement with Wachusett, the fragile environment of the mountain, his views as to the quality of the EIR and a request for a comprehensive Supplemental EIR. Tom discussed past and present capacity based on his review of parking lot figures. Debbie questioned the accuracy of the parking lot figures and asked how capacity is currently monitored. Brian Shanahan responded that he will obtain that information for board members. Tad Ames read a letter to the board which was faxed to him from Donna Brownell (WEST), James McCaffrey (Sierra Club) and Kristin DeBoer (Restore the Northwoods) urging the board to request a Supplemental Draft EIR due to numerous inadequacies in the original draft. Debbie Cary made a motion requesting the Commissioner to ask the Secretary to require a Supplemental Draft EIR. Ron Smith seconded. All in favor.

By unanimous vote of all board members present, the board requested that the Commissioner ask the Secretary to require a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from Wachusett Mountain Associates.

Tad agreed to write a letter to Secretary Coxe informing her of the board's request for a Supplemental Draft EIR. Tad asked that if the DEM were opposed to the proposed expansion could it go forward, and Peter responded that DEM's approval is needed for any major changes. Peter added that in addition to DEM's approval, all state and local permits would be needed. Debbie inquired about Section J #2 of the Mt. Wachusett Lease agreement and Peter replied that a written response will be sent prior to the next board meeting, copied to all board members.

Parks Study

Peter informed the board of a meeting convened with Mike Last, George Crombie, Andrea Lukens, Gail Yeo and Kelly Sinclair to explore further the Parks College idea. Kelly is looking at ways to obtain seed money through the Conservation Trust.

Budget

Peter presented a summary of the Senate Ways and Means Budget hearing. Peter informed the board that the letter sent to legislators has had response. Debbie asked where the budget process is now and Peter stated that both Ways and Means Committees are working on the budget now and that it should come before the House in May. Discussion followed on how to follow up on the letter. Board members agreed that in addition to following up on the letter to legislators requesting support for capital and operating budgets, Elisa will write the letter to the Governor, on behalf of the board, asking for support of DEM's supplemental budget which will come out of the state's surplus.

Peter reported that five appointments have been made to Watershed Basin Team Leaders as part of an important initiative with interagency collaboration.

Ron Smith moved to accept the February meeting minutes. Elisa Campbell seconded. All in favor.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the February meeting minutes.

Tad Ames recommended a motion whereby the board must approve all land acquisitions. Elisa noted that this is not intended to preclude prompt action by DEM when necessary. Ron suggested modifying the motion to be routine and Tad responded that the board meets monthly so it should not slow down the process. Peter agreed that the motion was a reasonable request. Tad noted that a special meeting could be called if the need should arise for swift approval. Tad made a motion whereby the board must approve all land acquisitions. Ron Smith seconded. All in favor.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved a motion whereby all land acquisitions must be approved by the board.

Ron asserted that it must be clear that everyone present understands and agrees to the provision for a special meeting to approve land acquisitions that require prompt action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Webber introduced DEM Board nominee Russell Peters from Mashpee. Mr. Peters discussed how he is very much involved in Native American issues on the local, state and national level and stressed the importance for Native Americans to be represented on the board to add the knowledge needed on these issues in the Commonwealth. Peter briefly explained the process of appointing a new board member. A board sub committee will screen, interview and make recommendations to the Governor who will consider the recommendations and make the appointment. Mr. Peters added that a native perspective is needed to understand complex issues such as use and utilization of the state forests and parks for tribal purposes. Peter informed the board that talks have taken place to discuss the idea of a camp for Native American children as well as others.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Brian Shanahan reported that Program Managers met with Regional Directors to develop a roster for seasonal staffing for spring and the summer. According to Brian, 5 Interpreter Centennial Coordinator (1 per region), 2 Van Drivers for the Centennial Van, 2 Boston Harbor Island Managers and Seasonal Restoration Rangers at Walden Pond SR have been added to last years roster. Brian discussed trends in staffing, noting that 73 interpreters is an all time high. Debbie asked if a comparison could be done to other park systems and Brian acknowledged the need to measure the benefits. Brian added that 5 new year round Ranger positions have been added and that they will report to Curt Rudge. Brian concluded with discussing the training program attended by 25 DEM employees last year which was mandated by DEP and paid for by the Massachusetts Highway Department. An agreement has been made with DEM and the company that offered the program to add specific topics to the program and using a DEM manual, hold the course again this year for 100 DEM employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Bettencourt noted that this was the second board meeting in a row where only four board members were present. Mark asked who was on the board sub committee for the new appointment and when will they be reporting. Tad responded that he and Debbie Cary make up the sub committee and may report next month. According to Debbie, they are still in the process of collecting information.

DRC REPORT

Marty Suuberg handed out the Schooner Ernestina winter newsletter, *Newsletter of the Official Vessel of the Commonwealth*. Marty said that the activities of the vessel are starting to take off and most importantly, people are using the boat. Debbie inquired as to how much the Ernestina is subsidized by the state and Marty replied that last year it was approximately \$150,000 and this year should be a similar amount. Marty noted that the fund raising effort for the Commission has been impressive.

According to Marty, the Greylock Center Housing Study, which was mailed to board members, found no immediate demand for seasonal housing. Discussions are ongoing with regards to the preparation of an EIR, RFD (Request for Determination) of applicability and sustainability issues. Spring construction will begin soon with the removal of the shackling on the tower

Marty reported that the Wachusett Down Road Repair bid has gone out.

Marty continued that the DRC staff held a retreat to determine among other things, Project Review Teams as a means of implementing the process of increasing awareness and training, and to identify issues early on in the project.

Tad requested clarity on the RFR (Request for Response) for site design at Greylock. Marty responded that the RFR was primarily for the Golf Course and may contain some of the roads and utilities connected to the Golf Course. Tad explained that it is his understanding that Phase One of the project included construction of the Golf Course, construction of a Visitor Center and the construction of the infrastructure of the project as a whole, which would include laying out a road with sewer lines, etc. leading up to a hotel that may never be built. Tad expressed concern that public moneys are being spent on aspects of premature projects and also that unnecessary disruptions may occur. Elisa stated the housing component of Greylock Center must meet three criteria, one which is that it be integral to the project's program. She said the housing study states that there is not yet a defined program. Elisa asked how housing can continue to be allowed in the project. Marty explained that MEPA expects the EIR to contain the entire scope of the project. Peter agreed to the need for the scope to be explicit and suggested a specific check list for tests to be met for housing. Peter added that a flowchart may also be necessary as a lot of components are contingent upon other components.

LAKES AND PONDS

Director of the Office of Water resources Mike Gildesgame discussed the matching grant program which began in FY'94 to restore and protect lakes and ponds. Mike also reported on several Environmental Education programs that serve to assist communities with hands on workshops, videos, etc. According to Mike, the Office of Water Resources works with DEM monitoring water quality and on various special projects. Mike provided copies of *The Lake Book, Actions You Can Take to Protect Your Lake* and *A Guide to Invasive Non-native Aquatic Plants in Massachusetts*. Mike also explained the process on a GEIR (General Environmental Impact Report) which will formalize statewide control of Eutrophication and aquatic vegetation. Bob Hartzel explained DEM's policy on herbicide use. According to Bob, the first step in the regulatory process is the EPA ten year review whereby a use label is created which becomes law for what is safe. The next step in a given project is obtaining a herbicide license from the DEP. Bob stated that any project funded by DEM either internally or through the grant program will not include dollars for herbicide projects unless there is absolutely no other alternative or the project deals with exotic infestation. Peter added that the grant process gives precedence to those projects that provide public beach access. Mike gave a list of the Office of Water Resources Key programs to all board members.

BOARD CONCERNS

Elisa asked if DEM forestry staff have noticed any sign of the Asian longhorn beetle which have been found in New York and target sugar maples trees, killing them in about a year. Peter suggested that Charlie Burnham may be able to enlighten the board on the subject of exotics in the forest.

Debbie stated that it may be important for the board to register their concern over the windmill at Halibut Point.

Peter informed board members of upcoming events including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Recognition Program at the State House on Tuesday, March 31st and the CCC Exhibit which will remain at the State House through April 3rd.

Peter also mentioned that a series of events are upcoming to unveil the Hank Foster Forest History book.

Having concluded all business the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15pm followed by a tour of Holyoke Heritage State Park given by Park Interpreter Charlie Lotspiech. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be on Wednesday, April 29, 1998 at Walden Pond State Reservation in Concord.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

April 29, 1998

Walden Pond SR

Concord, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, April 29, 1998 at Walden Pond State Reservation in Concord, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell, Michael Last and Patricia Karl. Absent was Ron Smith. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, Director of the Office of Public Information Susan Hamilton, Chief of Legal Services Kate Lewis, Chief Park Ranger Curt Rudge, Centennial Coordinator Ellen FitzPatrick, Supervisor of Walden Pond SR Peg Cambell, Christine Chisholm, Andrea Lukens, Bob Hartzel, Jim Hafey and Richard Thibedeau. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Marilyn Lund, Paul Remington and Laurien J. Cautwell. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tad Ames.

Elisa Campbell moved to accept the March meeting minutes. Debbie Cary seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the March meeting minutes.

Supervisor of Walden Pond SR Peg Cambell presented highlights and an overview of some of the programs currently offered at Walden. According to Peg, Iron Rangers placed in the park approximately one year ago have collected over \$9,000 of which 75% will be put back into programs through the Conservation Trust and 25% will be used for needed equipment. Peg also discussed: variations of the Junior Ranger Program; beautification at Walden; streamlining operations; water quality; interpretive signage; "Own Your Zone" program for long term laborers; bank restoration; interpretive programs; and the art gallery. Peg expressed the significance of staff coming on earlier and staying later. Peg concluded by stating future needs include the development of Walden's volunteer program. Todd Frederick added that Peg Cambell is a "Star Supervisor."

Lakes and Ponds Planner Bob Hartzel discussed the water quality issues at Walden Pond including objectives, seasonal changes, clarity theories, management and oxygen levels. Jim Hafey explained how bank restoration began in October 96, using natural material and plants, and is expected to be completed by Memorial Day 98. Tad Ames asked if traffic will be directed away from the restoration and Jim responded that it would. Susan Frechette added that Restoration Rangers have been hired to walk the paths and educate the public about the bank restoration project.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Peter Webber reported on the status of the House Ways and Means budget. Peter handed out and discussed *FY99 Budget Comparison*, *FY99 Proposed Budget Comparison* and *FY99 General Appropriation Act*, emphasizing the differences between House-1 and H-5500.

Michael Last explained that the concept of a Parks College is still at a very early stage. Tad asked if the college would confer degrees, and Peter stated that linking the Parks College with academic institutions is being considered. Debbie asked what the themes of the program would be and Mike replied that the program would have many layers including managing resources, sharing resources and principles of sustainability. According to Peter, several DEM employees are involved in the planning of the Parks College such as Director of Conservation Trust Kelly Sinclair, Gail Yeo and Andrea Lukens.

Elisa Campbell inquired about the status of the Senate budget. Peter reported that there has been increased interest focused mostly on capital needs. Board members agreed to the need for more specific budget information to effectively communicate with legislators, etc., for increased support. Patricia Karl suggested an information sheet including any amendments (pro & con) would be useful. Tad agreed to rework a letter, previously drafted by Elisa, to be sent to leadership in the House and the Senate, as well as copied to the Governor. Elisa stressed the

importance of the Parks Study which state that \$16 million more per year is needed. Mike added that recreation and educational benefits available to all citizens statewide, should be noted in the letter.

Debbie Cary moved to approve that a letter be sent from Tad, representing the board to leadership of the House and the Senate Ways and Means Committees requesting support for increased funding. Elisa Campbell seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all board members present, the board approved that a letter be sent to leadership of House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and copied to the Governor, requesting support for increased funding.

WACHUSETT

Peter informed the board that as of April 26, the Secretary had not signed the Notice of Project Change submitted by Wachusett Mountain Associates. According to Peter, he has conferred with DEM staff and MEPA staff, and subsequently decided he should not request the secretary to request a full supplemental draft environmental impact report. However, he has communicated the board's request for a recommendation to the Secretary to request a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

With regard to the recent discovery of illegal cutting of trails, Todd discussed discovery, investigation and the larger, broader management plans for the area. Curt Rudge presented an overview of the ongoing investigation and stated that a report will be available soon. According to Todd, there is the possibility that Leominster SF and Wachusett Mountain SR be a combined management. Todd added that under Curt's direction, the area is being designated a "Parks Watch" area. Patricia asked, if the investigation indicates that there was negligence on the part of Wachusett Mountain Associates (WMA), will they be held financially responsible. Peter responded that it is possible they will be held responsible or the cost may be split with DEM. Todd noted that the lease and the tickets clearly state that skiers must stay on designated trails.

DRC REPORT

Marty Suuberg reported that the procurement process for repairs to the down road at Wachusett Mountain SR is about to conclude. Marty added that the repairs necessitate closing the road for awhile. DRC staff continues to be in contact with the advisory board.

Marty stated that DRC is developing the protocol carrying capacity study being done with the assistance of volunteer students from MIT.

According to Marty, there is a good start to discussions involving sustainability with regards to Greylock Center, showing a good cross section of perspectives.

Marty officially informed the board that Stuart Weinreb is now Acting Director of Project Management replacing Gail Yeo and Rich Thibedeau is now Director of Natural Resources replacing Andrea Lukens. Gail and Andrea will remain involved with the Parks College and the Project Review Team.

Rich Thibedeau updated the board on the Thunderbolt Ski Shelter project. According to Rich, stabilization of the shelter includes replacing the shingles on the roof, replacing beams, patching cracks in the cement floor and new flashing around the chimney area. Rich added that regional staff as well as park staff agree that the use of the shelter would dramatically increase and vandalism may be discouraged if the windows and two doors were replaced at an approximate cost of \$35,000. Peter asked what the ultimate plan without the windows is and Rich said that the shelter would be open in the summer and boarded up in the winter.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the recommendation for an amendment to the previously approved Thunderbolt Ski Shelter Project. Patricia Karl seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the recommendation for an amendment to the Thunderbolt Ski Shelter Project to include the replacement of windows and two doors.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Todd reported that there is an exciting agenda planned for the National Association of State Parks Conference to be held in September.

Board members agreed that the Shade Tree Report from Charlie Burnham answered the questions raised at March's meeting regarding the Asian long-horned beetle.

Todd stated that seasonal staff is coming on. Debbie asked if there will be enough seasonal staff for overnight coverage at campgrounds and Todd responded that the larger campgrounds will have coverage, while some, such as Pittsfield, will have 24 hour coverage on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Todd reported that several long-term seasonal employees are not returning. According to Todd, a position for Water Safety Coordinator has been posted; and 5 full time Rangers, four from DEM and one from outside the agency are now on board. Michael asked Todd what seasonal rangers-do the rest of the year and Todd replied that many hold lower grade jobs with DEM. Todd reported that a Request for Response (RFR) has gone out for a private vendor to handle campground reservation and the goal is to have the system in place by next year.

Trails: According to Todd, all MOAs have been signed, the trails are in good shape and Region 5 has a new trails coordinator, Becky Barnes. Todd informed the board of a request for ORV use in Freetown SF for a one time Toys for Tots event to be held after the season has ended. Debbie asked why it would be allowed and Todd responded that it may not be allowed.

Todd informed the board that John Nove is now Acting Chief of the Bureau of Interpretive Services replacing Karl Honkonen who is now Watershed Coordinator. The job will be posted in August.

Debbie revealed that she has received calls expressing concern that DEM was not on top of illegal riding issues regarding the Chapter 90 roads at Catamount. Peter reminded the board that this issue had come up at a board meeting a few months ago at Purgatory Chasm. Todd added that Doug Poland has been meeting with the town to discuss among other issues, the issue of restoring roads. Elisa stated that she too has received calls about Catamount regarding wetland issues. Tad suggested that an attempt, this year, be made to track illegal riding. Todd concluded that many trails are monitored by riding clubs bringing them closer to park staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Bettencourt stated that he was pleased to see documentation for the \$22,500 worth of trail work being done by users. Mark added his perspective whereas in the last few years, prior to the regulations, riders had access to use approximately 30 forests, but now with the regulations in place, there are 8 open for use. Mark recommended that when the regulations are reviewed that more forests be opened to ORV use.

Paul Remington revealed that turnout for trail work is lower than usual, which in his opinion is due to resentment at being forced to work on the trails. Paul suggested that there may be a need to focus on science other than beliefs to assure that someone else's prejudices are not influencing the board. Tad assured Mr. Remington that the board has always tried to be as open minded as possible.

Marilyn Lund suggested that the reason for additional funding may be due to advocates contacting their legislators and requested that copies of letters sent to legislators from the board be sent to her. Debbie agreed, adding that perhaps it would be advantageous to send copies to Chairs of all friends groups.

Laurier Cautwell requested board support for extending the riding season for ORVs.

LAND ACQUISITION

Kate Lewis requested the board's vote for approval of four FY'98 Scenic and Natural Diversity (SAND) projects. Christine Chisholm presented the board with a handout describing the properties and discussed the background of the projects as follows: the Slein property in Middleborough; the Schmidt property in Westport; Camp Cachalot in Plymouth; and Gavigan property in Orleans. According to Kate, the four projects will max out funds that must be used prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the projects. Michael Last seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board voted to approve the following Scenic and Natural Diversity (SAND) Projects: Slein Property; Schmidt Property; Camp Cachalot; and Gavigan Property.

Kate requested that she and Chris alternately attend board meetings to discuss land projects. According to Kate, the FY'99 Lands Budget will be presented to board members at the August meeting and thereby suggested that board members read the materials received from the Lands Committee, including the minutes to the Lands Committee meetings.

BOARD CONCERNS

Michael Last requested that the May meeting be at a more central location than as originally planned at Western Gateway HSP in North Adams. All agreed to change the May meeting location to Great Brook Farm SP in Carlisle.

Elisa handed out an article written by her, *Let's Invest in Our Property*, and an article written by Fred Contrada *Summit House Prepares for Celebration*.

Debbie stated that Chairperson Becky Kalagher of the Massachusetts Recreation Trails Advisory Board has formally requested to be put on the agenda. Peter suggested that Peter Brandenburg also attend the meeting. Board member agreed to put the Massachusetts Recreation Trails Advisory Board on the May agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Bettencourt encouraged the sub-committee involved in the selection of a new board member to make a report. Tad responded that the sub-committee is still gathering information and will have a recommendation by the next board meeting.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 1998 at Great Brook Farm SP in Carlisle.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

May 20, 1998

Great Brook Farm State Park

Carlisle, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, May 20, 1998 at Great Brook Farm State Park in Carlisle, MA.

Those in attendance were Vice Chairperson Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell and Patricia Karl. Absent was Tad Ames, Michael Last and Ron Smith. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette and Trails Coordinator Peter Brandenburg. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Marilyn Lund and Jackie Davison.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am by Vice Chairperson Debbie Cary.

Elisa Campbell moved to accept the April meeting minutes subject to spelling corrections. Patricia Karl seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the April meeting minutes.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Budget- Peter reported that \$1,870,000 was added to the FY99 House Ways and Means Budget for new DEM programs including \$1.5m for the Muddy River project and \$.37m for Tree Planting. According to Peter, \$3,554,450 of DEM's FY99 operating budget will be displaced by underfunded earmarks, if the amended House budget is passed. Susan Frechette handed out and along with Peter discussed *H-5500 FY1999 Budget (2): Funded Earmarks* and *H-5500 FY1999 Budget: Unfunded Earmarks*. Peter added that one of the real consequences of the underfunding would be layoffs. Peter informed the board that the Senate will likely take up its version of the budget the first week of June. Patricia Karl stated that she would contact the legislators in her area for support and Debbie suggested notifying and bringing Friends and Advisory groups up to date. According to Susan, DEM's Legislative Liaison Anne Fiesinger anticipates the release of the Senate Ways and Means budget on Tuesday. Debbie Cary noted that then there will be floor debate, amendments and conference.

Parks Study- Peter reported that he is still working with Mike Last on the Parks College; however there is not much to report at this time.

Board Vacancy- Peter stated that based on the recommendation of the DEM Board sub-committee, he has recommended to the Secretary and the Governor, Brendan O'Neil of Martha's Vineyard to fill the vacancy on the board. According to Peter, Mr. O'Neil has been the Executive Director of the Vineyard Conservation Society since 1985 and also has an Environmental Law degree. Peter added in addition to an endorsement by Senator Raushenbaum, Mr. O'Neil has broad and strong support. Peter concluded that Mr. O'Neil was one of six qualified candidates considered by the sub-committee.

Boston Globe Article- Peter noted that DEM has been inundated with calls, emails and requests for brochures since an article written by Globe Correspondent Christine Tree appeared in *The Boston Sunday Globe* on May 3rd.

Additional Allocations- Peter reported that an allocation of capital funds that must be used prior to the end of the current fiscal year for the following: \$100,000 for funding Massachusetts RELEAF grants; \$150,000 for equipment to support community boating programs; \$50,000 to accelerate the Clean State

work; \$50,000 for port-a-potty trail units; \$30,000 to help move forward on the cooperative management plan that was identified by the Performance Enhancement Commission; and \$25,000 towards developing a comprehensive management plan for Mt. Wachusett. Debbie asked if these funds were extra, outside of the budget, and Peter responded yes, based on a combination of the Secretary's reserve and funds not used by all agencies due to projects not being on track. Peter stated that an additional allocation of approximately \$400,000 for land acquisitions was put back into the pool because the property that it was going to be used for came off the market. Debbie expressed concern over not using the money for other DEM land acquisition projects that are ready to go, and asked when the decision to return the funds was made. Peter explained that DEM made the decision yesterday, determining that to put the money back into the pool was the right thing to do because the money must be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Bettencourt thanked the sub-committee for making a recommendation for a South Eastern Massachusetts resident to fill the board vacancy. Mark also asked Peter to urge the Governor to make the appointment before the next meeting.

Marilyn Lund expressed concern about the commute from Martha's Vineyard to board meetings and Debbie assured her that was something the sub-committee did consider and the sub-committee, as well as Mr. O'Neil did not foresee any problems.

Mark requested a copy of the board vacancy recommendation.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Wachusett- Todd reported that State Parks Permit Coordinator Todd LaFleur met with staff at Mt. Wachusett to walk the illegally cut trails and also to discuss baseline operational issues. Meetings have taken place with Regional staff and Jeff Crowley from Wachusett Mountain Associates. According to Todd, Secretary Coxe has issued a Certificate for the Notice of Project Change for the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area expansion proposal. Conditions provide for mandatory public meetings to address issues that have been identified for the proposed expansion. Todd concluded that there is good progress towards sorting out the issues, and tasks include addressing questions pertaining to the lease, setting up MEPA required public meetings, and looking at the Trust Fund requirement of the lease to assure that the deposits are earning maximum interest.

Ashuwillticook- Todd state that there is a grass roots effort, which is moving fast with a lot of legislative support, to establish the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. Peter added that DEM's approach is to get a Berkshire Greenways Planner on board. According to Todd, a public meeting is being held tomorrow night. Peter said that DEM would like to create a cooperative management plan that would include volunteers and communities with actual commitments to partnerships.

Agenda Item- Todd informed the board that President and Mrs. Clinton plan to attend the grand opening of the Thoreau Institute on June 5th. Jackie Davison asked if they would visit Walden Pond SR and Todd responded that while it has not been confirmed, Supervisor Peg Cambell is preparing for it.

Field- Todd reported that a meeting took place with Todd, Peter and Martha's Vineyard South Beach Recreation Director Pam Dolby to discuss controlling access especially during the Fourth of July weekend. Eighteen additional state police men/women are being assigned for the weekend.

Water Safety Coordinator - Todd informed the board that the Water Safety Coordinator position has been posted and interviews should begin next week.

NASP Conference -According to Todd, Massport has agreed to donate coaches/buses for transportation for the conference in September.

Catamount-Todd reported that he and Doug Poland had a follow up meeting with the Catamount Hills Association. According to Todd, on June 20th, four wheel drivers in the area are planning to ride the Chapter 90 roads in protest of the closing of the roads by the town. DEM Ranger staff will be on site to safeguard DEM roads.

Thunderbolt Ski Shelter- Todd stated that he and Doug Poland have discussed the winter coordination of maintenance and watching for vandalism at the shelter with several volunteers and there has been a good response.

DRC REPORT

Halibut Point- Peter, reporting for Marty, stated that the windmill at Halibut Point will be removed. According to Peter, the manufacturer could slow the windmill down but could not stop it. Peter concluded that while DEM will not rush into a move, efforts are being made to find a new location.

TRAILS

State Trails Coordinator Peter Brandenburg noted that he spoke to Becky Kalagher (MARTAB) and extended the invitation to address the board. Debbie asked Peter to tell Becky that the invitation remains open.

Americorp- Peter reported that the Americorp group consisting of three teams is busy working on several projects. This week they are at Wompatuck SP and Holyoke Range SP. Future plans include a project on Great Brewster Island. Peter Webber added that Great Brewster Island has had damage since the Halloween storm of 1991 leaving trails overgrown and destroyed docks and piers.

Elisa suggested a cooperative effort with DEM and communities in the vicinity of the North Quabbin Reservoir to provide recreational opportunities other than at the reservoir. Peter B. responded that there are a lot of opportunities for trails, etc. in the area, but MDC manages most of the open space land, which is a watershed area, with restrictions.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Debbie requested an update on Mt. Tom which was discussed at a recent DEM Lands Committee meeting. Peter responded that discussions are ongoing with regards to a possible purchase or conservation restriction on the property. Peter asked if the board had previously been asked by DEM to endorse of the acquisition of Mt. Tom and Debbie said they had not. Elisa Campbell moved to approve the acquisition of Mt. Tom. Patricia Karl seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the acquisition of the Mt. Tom property.

Debbie noted that the board's vote should be brought to the attention of Secretary Coxe. Peter agreed to do so.

BOARD CONCERNS

All present agreed to forgo the June board meeting due to the many Centennial activities taking place during the month of June.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be held on July 22, 1998 at Western Gateway Heritage State Park in North Adams.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

May 20, 1998

Great Brook Farm State Park

Carlisle, MA

DRAFT

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, May 20, 1998 at Great Brook Farm State Park in Carlisle, MA.

Those in attendance were Vice Chairperson Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell and Patricia Karl. Absent was Tad Ames, Michael Last and Ron Smith. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette and Trails Coordinator Peter Brandenburg. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Marilyn Lund and Jackie Davison.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am by Vice Chairperson Debbie Cary.

Elisa Campbell moved to accept the April meeting minutes subject to spelling corrections. Patricia Karl seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

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Budget- Peter reported that \$1,870,000 was added to the FY99 House Ways and Means Budget for new DEM programs including \$1.5m for the Muddy River project and \$.37m for Tree Planting. According to Peter, \$3,554,450 of DEM's FY99 operating budget will be displaced by underfunded earmarks, if the amended House budget is passed. Susan Frechette handed out and along with Peter discussed *H-5500 FY1999 Budget (2): Funded Earmarks* and *H-5500 FY1999 Budget: Unfunded Earmarks*. Peter added that one of the real consequences of the underfunding would be layoffs. Peter informed the board that the Senate will likely take up its version of the budget the first week of June. Patricia Karl stated that she would contact the legislators in her area for support and Debbie suggested notifying and bringing Friends and Advisory groups up to date. According to Susan, DEM's Legislative Liaison Anne Fiesinger anticipates the release of the Senate Ways and Means budget on Tuesday. Debbie Cary noted that then there will be floor debate, amendments and conference.

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DRAFT

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Debbie noted that the board's vote should be brought to the attention of Secretary Coxe. Peter agreed to do so.

BOARD CONCERNS

All present agreed to forgo the June board meeting due to the many Centennial activities taking place during the month of June.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be held on July 22, 1998 at Western Gateway Heritage State Park in North Adams.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



100 CAMBRIDGE ST., BOSTON, MA 02202 PHONE 617-727-3180

FAX 617-727-9402 www.state.ma.us/dem/

MEETING NOTICE

Argeo Paul Cellucci
GOVERNOR

Trudy Coxe
SECRETARY

Peter C. Webber
COMMISSIONER

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
BOARD MEETING
June, 1998

Due to the Centennial Activities, board members agreed at the May meeting that there would not
be a

JUNE 98
DEM BOARD
MEETING

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 22, 1998 FROM
9:30 TO 12:30 AT WESTERN GATEWAY HSP IN NORTH
ADAMS FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF BERKSHIRE AREA
FACILITIES.





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AUGUST 26TH
BOARD MEETING
MOVED TO
SEPTEMBER 2
AT THE
REQUEST OF
CHAIRMAN TAD
AMES

Argeo Paul Cellucci
GOVERNOR

Trudy Coxe
SECRETARY

Peter C. Webber
COMMISSIONER



BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

September 2, 1998

Fall River Heritage State Park

Fall River, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, September 2, 1998, at Fall River Heritage State Park in Fall River, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell, Ron Smith, Michael Last and Brendan O'Neill. Absent was Patricia Karl. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, Chief of Legal Services Kate Lewis, Land Protection Specialist Christine Chisholm, MIS Director Jonathan Geer, Greylock Project Manager Stephen Brown, State Lands Forester Bill Rivers, Coastal Access Planner Geordie Vining and Region 1 Director Anne Stempka. Others present included Mark Bettencourt (South Eastern Massachusetts Trails Advisory Committee), Conservation Director for the Massachusetts Sierra Club James McCaffrey, Adams Town Administrator James Leitch, Paul Hutchinson and Francis Wytage.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am by Chairperson Tad Ames.

Elisa Campbell moved to accept the September meeting minutes. Debbie Cary seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the September meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

LAND ACQUISITIONS UPDATE

Kate Lewis informed the board that EOEAA has given all agencies, including DEM, a preliminary allocation of land capital dollars. According to Kate, board approval for several high priority /highly feasible projects as recommended and reviewed by the Lands Committee will allow the DEM to pursue the projects and send out proper statutory notice as is required for any state acquisition; however, this does not mean that these projects have received the approval of DEM senior staff. Kate noted that special dollars are also available through the cooperation of DEM's sister agencies offering up their capital dollars towards SAND (Scenic and Natural Diversity) projects. According to Kate, the Blue Ribbon Panel will reconvene in September with its vision for land protection and growth management into the next century. Debbie asked how DEM is represented on the panel and Kate responded that the panel covers a wide spectrum of interests and is very broad; nevertheless, she has participated in some of the discussions, and the Commissioner was at the table. Tad requested clarification of "feasible" in relationship to the projects and Kate said that it is to be understood as legally feasible and not necessarily financially feasible.

Christine Chisholm presented a brief overview and discussion relevant to projects before the board for approval. Christine noted that the Conroy project is earmarked in the Open Space Bond Bill. Christine and Kate discussed several scenarios that could take place regarding the high priority/medium feasible Mt. Tom project such as the inclusion or exclusion of the Ski area. Kate noted that the Mt. Tom project has been previously approved by the board. According to Kate, discussions are ongoing relevant to possible Sand dollars for the Brandt Point Project, concluding that it may be imperative to make an offer soon.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the French King Gorge Land Acquisition project. Debbie Cary seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the French King Gorge Land Acquisition project.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Williams Property Land Acquisition project. Ron Smith seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Williams Property Land Acquisition project.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Wittenborg Property Land Acquisition project. Ron Smith seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Wittenborg Property Land Acquisition project.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Krutiak Property Land Acquisition project. Ron Smith seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Krutiak Property Land Acquisition project.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Camp Holy Cross Land Acquisition project. Debbie Cary seconded.
Tad commented that the board might table this project pending further report on the status of buildings and structures on the property as well as the cost of the property. Ron Smith moved to table the vote pending further information. Discussion resulted in the agreement of the board to approve the Camp Holy Cross Land Acquisition now with an update to be provided at the October meeting.

All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Camp Holy Cross Land Acquisition project.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Barstow Property Land Acquisition project. Ron Smith seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Barstow Property Land Acquisition project.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the earmarked Conroy Land Acquisition project. Ron Smith seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Conroy Land Acquisition project.

Considering a recommendation from the Commissioner, the board agreed to table the vote for the Douglas Landfill Land Acquisition project pending further discovery. Michael Last notified the board that he would need to recuse himself from the Douglas Landfill vote due to the involvement of the Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo Law Firm.

Ron Smith moved to table the Douglas Landfill Land Acquisition project pending further discovery. Elisa Cambell seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, excluding Michael Last, the board voted to table the Douglas Landfill Land Acquisition project pending further discovery.

Debbie Cary moved to approve the No Town Land Acquisition project. Ron Smith seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the No Town Land Acquisition project.

Ron Smith moved to table the Hoosic Lake Land Acquisition project. Elisa Cambell seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board voted to table the Hoosic lake Land Acquisition project pending further discovery.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Brandt Point Land Acquisition project. Debbie Cary seconded.
All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Brandt Point Land Acquisition project.

Debbie inquired about the Wachusset Mountain Trust Fund and Christine responded that Wachusset is a separate pot from the bond capital needs. According to Christine, there are currently two appraisals out on two properties abutting Wachusset. Kate added that there is no specific spending plan, each plan is based on a project by project basis.

GREYLOCK CENTER

Stephen Brown handed out and discussed the *Greylock Center Financial Information* report. Stephen referred to Chapter 676 of the Acts of 1985 as an emergency law that authorized the DEM to acquire Greylock Glen and develop a regional economic and recreation facility in the form of a joint public and private effort. According to the report, the Commonwealth has agreed to contribute \$6.55 million for pre-development, planning and development tasks associated with the construction of on-site recreation and education amenities and infrastructure; GMA has agreed to contribute a minimum of \$450,000 in pre-development activities and secure up to \$33 million in private funding for buildings and recreation amenities; and the Town of Adams has agreed to apply for funds on behalf of the project and provide assistance as mutually agreed. Stephen stated that to date, GMA has contributed \$750,000 to the project. Tad asked if there was any means of audit for the GMA expenditures and Stephen replied that there is a mechanism within the original agreement where DEM may look at their bills to compare the figures. Stephen continued by discussing three different financial analyses for Phase I. Mike inquired as to the \$3.7 million for the Environmental Ed Building and Stephen explained that this building would include provisions for overnight stay. Elisa expressed concern regarding \$9 million for 50 units of housing. Tad questioned if the \$6.5 million public investment for Phase One would be leveraging additional private investment at the site. Stephen replied that the commitment to build the inn is strong. Mike suggested that the board clarify its role in the project and Tad agreed, adding that as a public board, with oversight of an agency spending public money, it may be incumbent upon the board to understand what public money this agency is spending on this project. Elisa expressed concern that there was no process in place for further review of the project after EIR is done, in a formal way, for public comment as a member of the DEM board; a member of the Greylock Advisory Board; or as a concerned member of the general public. Mike suggested that the board's role may be to assure that funds for the project are coming out of the accurate accounts and that the necessary contingency plan is being done. Tad requested that Peter present at the next board meeting the process by which he will determine if the project "meets the test," and Peter responded that it would relate to the Land Disposition Agreement that DEM has with the developer. James Leitch read a list of lay-offs that have occurred in the North Adams area over the past year, stressing the need for revitalization of the area.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Campground Reservations Operations & Development- Jonathan Geer presented an overview of the DEM's new campground reservation initiative *Campground Access and Management Program (CAMP) for Massachusetts*. According to Jonathan, CAMP Massachusetts will allow customers to make reservations in any of the twenty eight Massachusetts State campgrounds with one call to the Contractor's centralized reservation center as well as over the Internet. Elisa asked what the current policy for a no-show is and Peter explained that at present, the customer does not pay a fee for making reservations or for canceling reservations; however, there is a need for a cancellation fee because there's a cost for every transaction in the system. Todd added that if a customer makes a reservation and doesn't show up within 24 hours, the site may be given to someone else. Mike inquired about the potential for revenue. Todd responded that advertising on facility maps that are given out when customers register may provide a means of revenue.

Old Growth Policy- Todd distributed an updated draft of the *Old Growth Policy* which as he explained, incorporated many of the comments received from statewide environmental organizations as well as from environmental organizations outside of Massachusetts that have an interest in the policy. Todd stated that he hopes to have the final draft before the board for a vote by November. Bill Rivers handed out and discussed some of the comments received regarding the policy and the subsequent changes made as a result of those comments. Bill also informed the board of several suggestions and comments that were reviewed and not incorporated into the policy for various reasons. Bill noted that policy for buffer zones will be handled on a site-specific basis, and Debbie suggested that some guidelines might be helpful. Bill clarified that the management practices within the policy are intended to provide old-growth attributes in stands that are managed, and not for restoring old-growth forests. Debbie requested a copy of the suggestions made by the Nature Conservatory. Peter noted that plans include

publishing the policy in the Monitor and on the DEM home page. James McCaffrey handed out and discussed the Massachusetts Sierra Club's comments. James distributed copies of the comments made by WEST (Watchdogs for an Environmentally Safe Town). Elisa commented that the policy may be easier to read if the definition of old-growth was separate from the policy.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Parks Study- Peter updated the board on specific steps that DEM is taking as a result of the Parks Study which include the establishment of facility based information systems and issuing credit cards to park supervisors, thus moving decision making out to the field. According to Peter, there is still interest in a Parks College.

Budget- Peter informed the board that DEM is currently in the process of finalizing the spending plan for FY99. According to Peter, a supplemental budget which includes important items for DEM, is pending on the Governor's desk. Peter added that several projects totaling approximately \$200 million were vetoed from the capital budget; however, not all were forests and parks items. Debbie asked about the Open Space Bond appropriation and Peter stated that from various sources, we currently have funds available.

Peter informed the board that this year's phase of Clean State includes DEM sites within the Boston Harbor Islands. According to Peter, tests are being done for possible radiation at Lovells Island which may be naturally occurring or from allowable dumping in the 50s.

Ron asked about the use of Zonar for Aquatic weed control and Marty replied that based on conversations with Mike Gildersgame of the Office of Water Resources, Zonar is still on the "safe" list, subject to federal oversight through EPA.

COASTAL ACCESS PROGRAM UPDATE

Geordie Vining handed out and discussed information from DEM's *Office of Natural Resources Coastal Access* website including information on: the Coastal Access Grants Program; Coastal Access Legal & Mediation Service; Land Acquisition Planning; the Sea Path program; and the Classroom to Coast (CTC) program, A North Shore Educational Initiative. Peter concluded that Geordie has been able to generate a lot of publicity for Coastal Access in the Boston Globe, etc.

BOARD CONCERNS

Debbie noted that the MEPA certificate is out for the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, and she encouraged DEM to think hard about the role they will take as owner of the property. Debbie suggested a market value assessment of the lease. Peter agreed stating that Andrea Lukens and Todd LaFleur are working on this.

Elisa asked if there was any news regarding the illegal trails at Wachusett and Todd responded that there was not.

Ron handed out a copy of an article that appeared in the *Letter to the Editor* column in the *Berkshire Eagle* on September 1, 1998 entitled *Snowmobiles will destroy bike trail* regarding the use of snowmobiles on the Ashuwillticook Bike Trail. Peter discussed DEM's role in managing the trail.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be held on October 14, 1998 at Quinsigamond State Park in Worcester.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

October 23, 1998

Quinsigamond State Park

Worcester, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Friday October 23, 1998, at Quinsigamond State Park in Worcester, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Ron Smith, Patricia Karl and Brendan O'Neill. Absent were Elisa Campbell, Debbie Cary and Michael Last. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, Chief of Legal Services Kate Lewis, Greylock Project Manager Stephen Brown, Chief of Recreation Gary Briere, Director of the Bureau of Resource Protection Richard Thibedeau, Director of the GOALS Program Jack Lash, GOALS Regional Planner Gail Benedict, Region 3 Director Don Stoddard, Kristin Karl, Tom Lavoie, Denis Melican and Anita Wysocki. Others present included Marilyn Lund, Jackie Davison, Jason Phelps and Ed Driscoll.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by Ron Smith.

Coordinator for Project Learning Tree Kristin Karl presented a brief overview of the new Forests and Parks on Wheels Van. Kristin also discussed how the van will be utilized as a tool for educational outreach at schools, community events, DEM events, etc., offering hands-on learning experience in forest ecology, biodiversity and watersheds. Kristin explained that in addition to "Forests and Parks on Wheels," other DEM educational initiatives include: "Parks as Classrooms" (PAC) which encourages focused investigation with professional interpreters in the field; and "Project Learning Tree" (PLT) which emphasizes a comprehensive look at the environment through hands-on learning of the land, air and water.

Patricia Karl moved to accept the September meeting minutes. Ron Smith seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the September meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

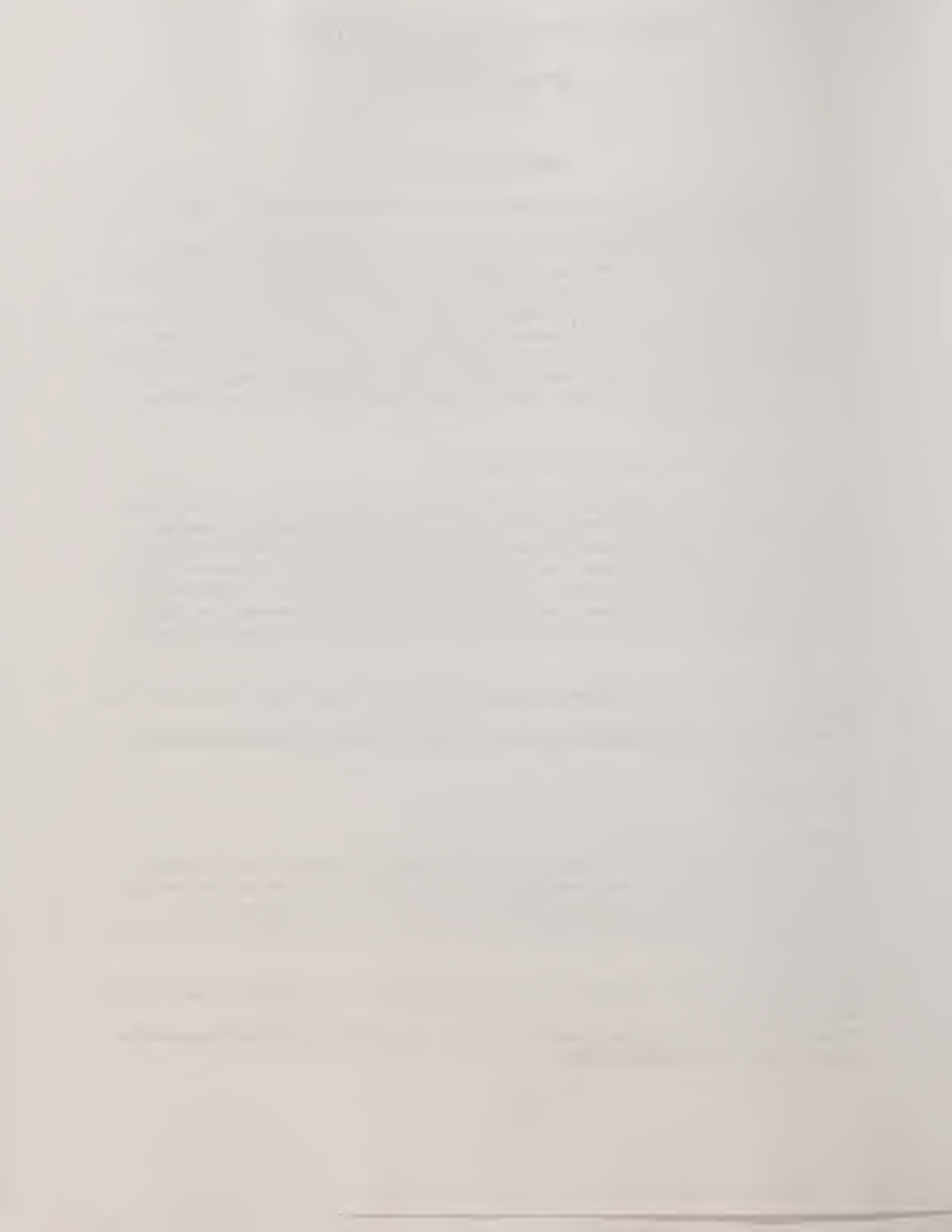
None at this time.

LAND ACQUISITIONS UPDATE

Kate Lewis requested approval for eminent domain taking, pursuant to Chapter 132A §3, for Brandt Point, 212 acres in Mattapoisett with over 3000 feet of frontage with a rocky shoreline. The board has previously discussed and approved the acquisition of the Brandt Point parcel; however, as Kate explained, the sellers have indicated that there are tax advantages available to them should DEM take the property by eminent domain.

Ron Smith moved to approve the eminent domain taking of Brandt Point. Patricia Karl seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, pursuant to Chapter 132A §3, the board approved the eminent domain taking of Brandt Point.



Richard Thibedeau discussed a proposal to purchase 566 acres of water and underlying land of the southern, middle and northern basins of Hoosic Lake (Cheshire Reservoir), the lake's dam and 50 acres of adjoining land in the Towns of Cheshire and Lanesborough. Richard's report included the rationale for purchase, the management plan and possible future recreational development. Kate requested a vote on the Hoosic Lake project at the next board meeting.

MOORE STATE PARK GOALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jack Lash and Gail Benedict presented the Moore State Park GOALS Management Plan. According to Jack, the plan has been endorsed by Senior Staff, Bureau Chiefs and leadership of the agency through the in-house review process. Jack introduced the team members present as follows: Region 3 Director Don Stoddard; Assistant Tom Lavoie; Park Supervisor Denis Melican; and Gail Benedict. Gail briefly outlined the plan which was previously mailed to board members, and also discussed a handout, *Moore State Park GOALS Management Plan - Draft: Prioritized Listing of Principal Recommendations*, which included: annual funds: operational; capital funds: existing; historic resource management; natural resource management; annual: operations and maintenance; capital: new; capital: land protection and acquisition; and longer term recommendations. Gail concluded that she will send the Final Plan along with maps to board members prior to the next meeting. Tad stated that the vote for board approval of the Moore State park Goals Management Plan will be on the November agenda.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Todd reported that the NASPD Conference was very successful with 46 states represented along with 2 Canadian Provinces.

Old Growth Policy-Todd handed out and discussed the Final Draft of the Old Growth Policy and requested a board vote at the December meeting. According to Todd, public hearings are being scheduled for November 18th. Todd informed the board that an Old Growth Conference is being held at Harvard Forest in Petersham on November 6th and 7th.

Campground Rates-Gary Briere handed out and discussed *Camping Rates, Reinvestment and the Second Century Fund*. Gary pointed out that the proposal includes a resource based differential in the rates.

Ron Smith moved to endorse the recommended proposed camping rate increase up to a maximum fee of \$15.00. Brendan O'Neill seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the proposed camping rate increase up to a maximum fee of \$15.00 per night.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Budget- Peter reported that a spending plan has been developed for the FY'99 budget and forwarded to the Secretary for approval. According to Peter, the spending plans calls for \$43million which includes: \$8.4 mil for waterways; \$.5 million start up funding for the CAMP Reservation System; and funding for approximately 80 new hires (mostly F&P field staff).

Peter informed the board that the Boston Harbor Island Partnership has received federal authorization for acquiring a Conservation Restriction for Thompson Island.

Peter urged members to visit DEM's On-line Visitor Center.

Tad asked if DEM was doing a landscape inventory across the state and Marty responded that the inventory was funded in the supplemental budget for \$250,000; however, it is still in the planning stages.

GREYLOCK CENTER

Stephen Brown handed out and discussed: *Greylock Center, DEM Board Meeting, October 23, 1998*; a copy of the *Certificate of the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on the Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the Greylock Center Project; and *Disposition Process & Review Procedures*. Marty estimated that the Final EIR will not be completed until early spring.

BOARD CONCERNS

Ron asked for an update on the relocation from the Saltonstall Building. Peter responded that the Albany Street location may not be ready before March '99. Anita added that floor plans have not been finalized, nor has the lease signed. According to Anita, other than the building being gutted, renovations have not been done.

Ron inquired about Secretary Coxe's departure, and Peter replied that she will be officially staying through early December; however, due to vacation time off, she may be physically on the job only until mid-November.

Brendan informed the board of a recent letter he received from the Friends of Fall River/Freetown State Forest requesting assistance in the repair of the sprinkler system and wading pool. According to the letter, the Friends have offered to collaborate with DEM to facilitate the needed repairs. Todd responded that DEM is aware that the facility is in bad shape and of the needed repairs. Todd added that the appropriate F&P staff will contact the Friends group to discuss the repairs as a follow-up to the correspondence.

Brendan brought to the board's attention, discussions in the press, coming out of the Martha's Vineyard County Commission regarding the request for a piece of the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest for other uses. According to Brendan, one square mile of the Vineyard State Forest was taken during W.W.II for the purpose of creating a Naval Air Station. Currently, the property is part of the airport, outside of DEM's control. Brendan stated that there is talk of swapping some of the area under the flight path which is not utilizable, for a piece of the state forest to be used for other uses. In this case, Brendan added, the use would be a regional septage treatment facility. Brendan requested board notification of any requests received by DEM regarding this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Phelps requested information regarding the status of a DEM Town Roads Policy. Peter responded that currently, there is an ongoing management issue; however, there is not a policy. Jason inquired about the closing of Chapter 90 town roads in Catamount that lead up to a burial ground, which according to Jason, should be open to the public. Tad suggested that Jason discuss this issue with the town.

Jason asked if the Region 5 GOALS Plan has been developed, and Gail informed him that it is still being worked on.

Gary reminded board members of the upcoming State Forests & Parks Supervisors Conference in March and suggested scheduling the March board meeting at the conference.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management will be held on November 20, 1998 at Quinsigamond State Park in Worcester.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

November 20, 1998

Quinsigamond State Park

Worcester, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Friday, November 20, 1998, at Quinsigamond State Park in Worcester, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell, Michael Last, Patricia Karl and Brendan O'Neill. Absent was Ron Smith. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Chief of Legal Services Kate Lewis, Regional Planner Gail Benedict and Tom Lavoie. Others present included Mark Bettencourt and Susan Manero.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm by Chairman Tad Ames.

Brendan O'Neill proposed that the October meeting minutes be amended as follows: Board Concerns: 3rd from last line, change "a list of needs" to "other uses"; 2nd from last line, delete "a transfer station for".

Patricia Karl moved to accept the October meeting minutes with proposed amendments. Mike Last seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present the board approved the October meeting minutes with proposed amendments.

LAND ACQUISITIONS UPDATE

Kate reported that town approval for the eminent domain taking of Brandt Point has been given.

According to Kate, the Purchase and Sale agreement has been forwarded to the sellers for their signature and DEM expects to close on the property by the end of the calendar year.

Kate stated that upcoming meetings with Army representatives will take place to discuss the cleanup of the Hingham Annex property which is a 125 acre parcel, adjacent to Wompatuck State Park.

Kate informed the board that the 3rd and final payment for the Notown Reservoir will be made within the next 4 months.

Kate discussed the French King Gorge parcel, noting that over the next two months DEM, Food and Agriculture, etc. will step in and purchase their interests.

Kate reported that the Mt. Tom acquisition may not be finalized until the next fiscal year.

Kate requested postponement on the Hoosic Lake vote pending further investigation. Tad asked how the purchase price would be handled through an escrow account. Kate explained that one half of the total purchase price would go into an escrow account to be used for actual costs of the cleanup. If after three years, funds remain in the escrow account, it would go to the seller. If the cleanup costs total more than what is in the escrow account, DEM would be responsible for the additional costs.

Debbie asked about activity in the Wachusett area and Kate responded that there are three parcels in the Wachusett area under review; however, only two have willing sellers.

MOORE STATE PARK GOALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Gail Benedict requested board approval for the Moore State Park Goals Plan which was discussed at the October meeting. Elisa expressed concern regarding the minimum staffing of one year round supervisor for the park and Todd stated that there is the potential for more if needed.

Patricia Karl moved to approve the Moore State Park GOALS Plan. Debbie Cary seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Moore State Park GOALS Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Manero of the Wachusett Mountain Advisory Council (WMAC) addressed the board with several suggestions regarding the need for education and a clearer policy definition for the trails at Wachusett. Sue added that more DEM staff may be needed to enforce old growth protection on the mountain. Mark Bettencourt (MARTAB) requested board approval for a special one day permit to hold a Toys for Tots Charity Trail Ride at Freetown SF. Tad explained that the criteria for the current policy which sunsets December 31, 1998, have been established ending the trail riding seasons on November 1. Debbie discussed the fairness to other trail users for DEM to make exceptions to the current regulations. Tad concluded that he is against doing special permits/exemptions and in any event, it is not the board's role to approve such. Board members agreed not to approve Mark's request. Mike suggested that consideration of regional differences may be addressed during the upcoming review of the ORV regs.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Todd reported that meetings to discuss ORV regulations are being scheduled with the first one being next week with Pilgrim Sands Trail Riders.

According to Todd, Friends/Advisory Group meetings held in November had a good turnout with positive feedback.

Todd reported that Old Growth hearings were held on November 19th, and while by and large, the policy seems to be on target, buffers remain an issue. Todd added that supportive comments from old growth experts were made at Harvard Forests Old Growth Symposium.

Todd said that work is still in progress on campground rate changes and the campground reservation system. More information will be available at next month's meeting.

Todd recommended scheduling the March Board meeting on March 23, 1999 at the spring Recreation Supervisors' Conference.

Todd concluded by informing the board that extra staff will be on at Pilgrim Memorial over the Thanksgiving holiday.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Peter discussed the Environmental Management Systems which DEM is embarking on at the urging of the Secretary. According to Peter, the notion is that this will be more than clean state or environmental compliance. Mike requested that the board be provided an outline of the aspects, targets and objectives. Peter informed the board of the newly created Quality of Life Working Group whose goals, as part of the Governor's Transition Team, include improving parks and recreation facilities and expanding protected open space.

Peter noted that Boston Harbor's Island Alliance held its annual dinner fund-raiser with more than twice the number of attendees from last year. Nationally this group is ranked as one of the top 20 support groups with over \$300,000 in donations received this year.

Peter informed the board that there are a lot of non-forests and parks financial obligations looming on the horizon which include seawalls, waterways and water resources projects.

The comfort station at Plymouth Rock is finished and will be open in time for the Thanksgiving Parade. DEM staff will meet next week with Senator Raushenbach to discuss the Crosby Mansion curatorship efforts.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management has been scheduled for December 17, 1998 at Purgatory Chasm State Reservation in Sutton.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

December 17, 1998

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

Sutton, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Thursday, December 17, 1998 at Purgatory Chasm State Reservation in Sutton, MA.

Those in attendance were Chairperson Tad Ames, Debbie Cary, Elisa Campbell, Michael Last, Patricia Karl and Brendan O'Neill. Absent was Ron Smith. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Martin Suuberg, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Susan Frechette, State Lands Forester Bill Rivers and Purgatory Chasm State Reservation Supervisor Dave Poddles. Others present included Mark Bettencourt (Pilgrim Sands Trail Riders), Michael Toomey (Friends of Douglas SF), and Spaulding R. Aldrich (Blackstone Valley Heritage Homecoming).

The meeting was called to order at 10:45am by Vice Chair Deborah Cary.

Park Supervisor Dave Poddles presented a brief overview of Purgatory Chasm State Reservation. Dave displayed and discussed a map of the Waters Property and the Greylock Property which was acquired by DEM a year ago. Dave requested time on the January Board meeting agenda for the Town of Sutton Board of Selectmen appointed Land Use Study Committee to make a presentation on a Greenway Link connecting the Sutton State Forest with the Douglas State Forest.

Elisa Campbell moved to accept the November meeting minutes. Debbie Cary seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the November meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Old Growth Policy: Todd reported that there have been no substantive changes resulting from the Old Growth Policy Public Hearings held on November 19, 1998. Todd handed out and discussed a brief synopsis of the comments made that generally supported the adoption of DEM's old growth policies and stressed the benefits of preserving old growth forests. According to Todd, the next step is to move forward and develop site-specific management plans for each old growth area.

Elisa Campbell moved to approve the Old Growth Policy subject to grammatical and formatting changes as needed. Debbie Cary seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved the Old Growth Policy subject to grammatical and formatting changes.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Webber reported that a signed Purchase and Sale Agreement has been completed for the Brandt Point property. According to Peter, there is no news at this time regarding the Douglas property.

Peter noted that DEM has made an offer on a property in Cummington which is near the Berkshire Snow Basin. Peter added that DEM foresters have acknowledged this to be a significant property.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT (continued)

Old Growth Policy: Todd handed out and discussed a copy of the pending legislation on *Establishing Old-Growth Forests Reserves*. Debbie asked what the advantages would be to having legislation and Todd replied that it would assure more protection by all agencies, not just DEM. Todd concluded that he would keep the board updated.

Camping Rates: Todd handed out and discussed *Campground Reinvestment Initiative for Massachusetts State Forests and Parks*. According to Todd, the CAMP Reservation System (1-877-ICAMPMA) should be up and running in a couple of weeks. Debbie suggested that a one page handout with information on the camping increase and the reservation system would be helpful to notify the public.

BUDGET

Susan Frechette handed out and discussed *DEM FY00 New/Expansion Program Proposals*, a draft list created at the request of Acting Secretary Jan Reitsma to identify critical initiatives facing DEM. Susan noted that the list is categorized as follows: public health/safety; municipal assistance; resource protection; and environmental education.

Susan reported that DEM will be out of funds for any new projects by the end of the current fiscal year and therefore, is pursuing the reauthorization of capital accounts. According to Susan, EOEA is planning to file an omnibus bill for all of the environmental agencies in need of capital reauthorization. Susan concluded that conversations are ongoing with regard to some sort of stopgap for DEM.

Susan stated that additional funds received by DEM this fiscal year have resulted in the filling of 23 staff positions, 53 positions posted and 24 positions awaiting civil service lists. Susan added that a portion of the additional funds also went to Waterways. Board members agreed that it would be helpful for the board, as well as for public consumption, if complicated budget information was broken down and simplified. Debbie urged the board to be aggressive and recommended that the board go on record as saying that a cut in funding would make it impossible for DEM to provide for public health and safety. Debbie Cary moved that Chairman Tad Ames draft one or more letters on behalf of the board to the Governor as well as the Secretaries of EOEA and A&F alerting them to the financial needs of DEM. Elisa Campbell seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the board approved that Chairman Tad Ames draft one or more letters, on behalf of the board, to the Governor as well as the Secretaries of EOEA and Administration & Finance, alerting them to the financial needs of DEM.

BOARD CONCERNS

Elisa asked if there was any response to the letters that Debbie sent to the Quality of Life Transition Team and Debbie responded that she received a letter of acknowledgment from Lt. Governor elect Jane Swift.

Mike reported that he testified on behalf of the DEM Board at the EOEA Budget Hearing.

Elisa asked if a new Region 4 Supervisor has been officially appointed yet and Todd replied no.

Debbie asked if anyone had information on legislation filed by Representative Harriette Chandler for a State Parks License Plate and Todd answered that he did not.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40pm. The next meeting of the Board of Environmental Management has been scheduled for **January 29, 1999** at Purgatory Chasm State Reservation in Sutton.

