



Friends News and Information

Welcome to the Friends Network!

Friends of the Watertown Riverfront <http://groups.google.com/group/fotwr>

To view all Networking Friends visit <http://www.networkingfriends.net/friendslinks.html>

Outline of Proposed Public Participation Process for DCR Forests, by The Logue Group

A statement by The Mass Organization of Dispute Resolution describing the process: "What follows is a brief outline for a proposed public participation process . The proposed design is meant to be flexible and to include ways of incorporating broad public input, creating dialogue among more organized stakeholder groups and bringing credible scientific information into any recommendations for a DCR vision [for forests going forward."

Read the full text of the Logue Group Statement on the Friends Network website <http://www.networkingfriends.net/>. Click on *Outline of Proposed Public Participation Process for DCR Forests, Feb. 5, 2009 - pdf*.

A note from the Friends Network Facilitators on the above "Process for DCR Forests"

Friends Network Members have differing opinions as to how DCR's forest visioning process will or will not help resolve growing conflict about forest management in the Commonwealth. We're a network comprised of different groups with differing opinions; a network whose members and facilitators call attention to what they see as challenges within a process. Our strength is the ability to share opinions and showcase the process. Please take a moment to review the information and share your thoughts with the Network and with DCR.

This just in: Want to see your favorite MA site on the back of a quarter? You get to vote!

Visit: *Help Governor Patrick Choose* at http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3utilities&sid=Agov3&U=quarters_program

Urgent: Wood Ducks need homes!

MassWildlife needs donations of constructed wood boxes or materials to build them. For details please visit: *Urgent Housing Need for Wood Ducks in Massachusetts* at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/facts/birds/waterfowl/help_wood_ducks.htm

Open Letter to Commissioner Rick Sullivan from Friends of Willard Brook

Friends of Willard Brook asks people who want to express their disappointment about the lack of progress in clearing up the liability issue to write letters or communicate through DCR's new blog: <http://conservation.blog.state.ma.us/>

Dear Commissioner Sullivan:

I am writing to you as President of Friends of Willard Brook (FOWB). Over a year ago on November 19, 2007 "An Act Relative to Volunteers at State Parks" was signed by Governor Patrick. The signing of that law was the culmination of years of discussions, negotiations, and wording and re-wording of details between the former Senator Antonioni's office and representatives of the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Part of that law required DCR to establish guidelines, requirements and standards related to volunteer work and the co-sponsoring of events. To date, none of that has been done.

DCR's inaction and noncompliance with that law have done exactly the opposite of the law's purpose. Rather than fostering, encouraging and assisting stewardship on state properties, DCR has discouraged and hindered volunteerism.

This past fall, our winter carnival committee was well into the planning stages of our major fundraiser for the parks. Hopes were high for the addition of live music and the return of sled dogs, when progress came to a screeching halt. The FOWB Board of Directors was notified in November that DCR still required the old, convoluted permitting process that included proof of cost-prohibitive liability insurance.

At a time when the state budget is being cut further and further, one would expect that DCR would welcome help that comes free of charge. However, as a volunteer who has given hours and hours of time to the state, as a volunteer who has attended several statewide partnership conferences where appreciation for Friends groups was voiced, I feel that DCR may just be giving lip service to us. My frustration has risen to the

point where I have considered looking elsewhere to give service. There are so many enthusiastic and ready volunteers who would love to help you promote and enrich the public's enjoyment of the parks and forests. We are so discouraged by DCR's inaction and lack of consideration.

I ask you to please make the establishment of new guidelines to foster volunteerism at the state parks and forests a priority.

Sincerely,

Emily Norton
President, Friends of Willard Brook
emily@willardbrook.org
<http://www.willardbrook.org/welcome.htm>

New Department of Conservation and Recreation Blog:

<http://conservation.blog.state.ma.us/>

A statement from Commissioner Sullivan about the new blog:

"Welcome to the new Conservation and Recreation blog!

On behalf of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), I'd like to thank Governor Patrick for the opportunity to create this online community. This blog provides another way to open a dialogue with everyone who enjoys and cares about our Commonwealth's natural resources. In my nearly two years as Commissioner, I have been impressed with the energy and enthusiasm shown by our park users, friends, and advocates, as well as the 1,200 DCR employees who dedicate themselves every day to ensure our visitors have the very best experience. I'm looking forward to this opportunity to engage you in conversation about the places we both love. . . .

Commissioner Rick Sullivan, Department of Conservation and Recreation"

Posting February 06, 2009: [Accelerating Our Bridge Work](#)

To show off your forest or park try Panoramio, by Google. Its free and easy to connect pictures from your friends group to the exact location on a Google map! . <http://www.panoramio.com/>.

***** Park Serve Day will be held on April 25, 2009. Start planning!**

Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation Project Meeting

DCR's design consultant, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., will present preliminary plan drawings for discussion,

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bangs Community Center – Glass Room

70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

See DCR's Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation project webpage at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/norwottuck/>.

State Rangers training for a revitalized Park Watch Program

A number of friends groups are starting Park Watch programs this spring. Call Chief Ranger Curt Rudge if you are interested in knowing more about the program at 508-889-5625.

Budget cuts for DCR Resource Management Plans

DCR is mandated by the legislature in Chapter 21: Section 2F to develop Resource Management Plans (RMP's) for the properties they are responsible for. The lack of manpower to address this and the slow progress on them has been a concern to the Friends Network.

As seen in Chapter 21: Section 2F. Management guidelines for sustainable forestry practices on public and private forest lands: "The commissioner of conservation and recreation shall submit management plans to the stewardship council for the council's adoption with respect to all reservations, parks, and forests under the management of the department, regardless of whether such reservations, parks, or forests lie within the urban parks district or outside the urban parks district. Said management plans shall include guidelines for the operation and land stewardship of the aforementioned reservations, parks and forests, shall provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and shall ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management."

We are disappointed to see that an additional \$100,000 "earmarked" for RMP's was a victim of the latest round of budget cuts. This will mean that DCR will not be able to hire additional staff to work on the plans. We are trying to track why money for a program mandated by the legislature is considered an earmark.

The information below was copied from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental 2009 Spending Category Chart. It shows budget cuts for the category "Earmarks FY2009".

EARMARK DESCRIPTION City / Town [Amount allocated amount cut]

9C Cuts (9C Explanation: Eliminates earmark spending and reduces other spending that is not affordable given the current revenue estimate.)

> Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell 200,000 -200,000

> DCR Mounted Park Rangers Statewide, Blue Hills 100,000 -100,000

- > **Resource Management Plans Statewide 100,000 -100,000**
- > Lake Wyola Shutesbury 150,000 -150,000
- > Wekepeke Reservoir, Sterling Sterling 250,000 -250,000
- > Hummocks Park, DCR Statewide 100,000 -100,000
- > Martha Vineyard Commission Dukes County 60,000 -60,000
- > Revere Public Safety Facility Revere 32,000 -16,000

Legislation of interest to friends groups

House 2009-2010 House Docket List - Sorted by Docket Number

The 2009-2010 bills do not yet have committees assigned for the 2009-2010 session. If they have a refile number (last number in the line) you can use it to find out what they contain. To read bills without refile numbers you will need to contact the sponsor. You can find the sponsor at the General Court website: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/>

These are bills we will be tracking in the House regarding forests and parks and friends groups. Let us know how these bills would affect your forest or park if passed. Senate bills of importance will be posted in the next Friends Network newsletter.

152 F. Jay Barrows, An Act Authorizing the town of **Norton** to transfer certain park land

284 Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., An Act Relative to Recreational Vehicles 3607

342 Viriato M. deMacedo, An Act relative to the retirement rights of forest and park supervisors 2456 (**Myles Standish State Forest**)

724 William N. Brownsberger, An Act providing for park expansion and urban wildlife preservation in **Belmont and Cambridge 21**

947 Anne M. Gobi, An Act safeguarding our natural resources

972 Anne M. Gobi, An Act relative to recreational vehicles

986 Anne M. Gobi, An Act to further regulate the use of recreational vehicles 3489

998 David M. Torrasi, An Act relative to the rehabilitation of community resources

1102 Stephen Kulik, An Act establishing a snowmobile educational safety program

1106 Stephen Kulik, An Act regarding recreation lands 3080

1129 Stephen Kulik, An Act authorizing the establishment of **old growth forest reserves**, 797

1139 David M. Torrasi, An Act regulating the use of recording devices in motor vehicles 3660

1143 Anne M. Gobi, An Act relative to the operation of a snow vehicle or recreational vehicle under the influence of alcoholic or narcotic 1462

1265 Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera. An Act to protect trees in public parks

1331 Richard J. Ross, An Act Relative to the Bureau of Forest Fire Control 2370

1398 Ruth B. Balsler, An Act to protect the natural resources of the Commonwealth

1522 Peter v. Kocot, An Act relative to protecting the **natural resources** of the Commonwealth 790

1975 Frank I. Smizik, An Act to place certain job titles in the division of state parks and recreation in the department of conservation and recreation 2742

2142 Rosemary Sandlin, An Act to convey land in **Robinson State Park** in the town of Agawam for the purpose of electrical transmission

2419 Frank I. Smizik, An Act Relative To **The Regulation Of Snow And Recreation Vehicles** (This legislation is based on the DCR OHV Enforcement Working Group which had Friends Network representation and input from Friends Groups)

2427 Martha M. Walz, An Act relative to regulation of off road vehicles

2547 Garrett J. Bradley, An Act relative to the use of buildings and park land in the town of **Hull** for development purposes

2553 Tom Sannicandro, An Act Relative to motor vehicles 3622

2785 Robert M. Koczera, An Act establishing a visitors and education center in the **freetown state forest** in the town of Freetown, 3779

2851 Christopher J. Donelan, An Act relative to improving the Massachusetts rural economy for the farm forest and wood products industry

2875 Walter F. Timilty, An Act relative to the use of the **Neponset Valley Parkway** in the town of Milton 3650

2935 Anne M. Gobi, An Act relative to **forest lands** under Chapter 61

2966 Martha M. Walz, An Act protecting certain **public parks**

2971 Denis E. Guyer, An Act Relative to the Operation of Snow and Recreation Vehicles

3000 Rosemary Sandlin, An Act to establish a Massachusetts Resource Recovery Corporation

3214 Frank I. Smizik, An Act Relative To Sustainable Water Resources

3304 Denis E. Guyer, An Act relating to the forest products industry

3333 Anne M. Gobi, An Act relative to the Forest Stewardship Incentive Program

3348 Denis E. Guyer, An Act to Establish the **Sherwood Forest Lake District**_88

- 3437 Peter v. Kocot, Resolve relative to protecting the **archaeological and fossil resources of Western Massachusetts** 787
- 3514 Peter v. Kocot, An Act **Prohibiting Clear Cutting in State Forests and Parks**
- 3766 Michael F. Rush, **An Act to Create a World Class Park System**
- 3767 Michael F. Rush, An Act Directing The Department Of Conservation And Recreation To Maintain Certain Property_4 850 (Veterans of Foreign Wars Parkway in the city of 4 **Boston and the town of Brookline**)
- 3851 Michael F. Rush, An Act **Recognizing Massachusetts State Parks Day**
- 3916 Bruce J. Ayers, An Act Relative to Public Safety at the Furnace Brook Parkway in the City of **Quincy**
- 3918 James M. Murphy, An Act regarding Green Energy and the Community Preservation Act

Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network
www.networkingfriends.net