



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

June 8, 2017

Jay Ash, Secretary
Executive Office of Housing and
Economic Development
One Ashburton Place, Room 2101
Boston, MA 02108

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Ash and Secretary Beaton,

We write concerning the future of the DCR parcel on the north side of Birmingham Parkway in Brighton. We hope to receive your guidance and collaboration in a process to put the parcel to a higher use.

The parcel is a patch of meadow that was separated from the Charles River Reservation some years ago by the construction of Soldiers Field Road and the sale of property for development along Soldiers Field Road. Essentially, the parcel sits between a strip mall and the Mass Pike (which runs adjacent to Birmingham Parkway in that stretch).

Currently, DCR has leased the west end of the parcel as storage area for a local construction company – there are large piece of construction equipment and piles of material.

The park gets very limited use compared to the other DCR facilities along the Charles in the immediate area, despite the availability of ample parking along the Parkway. The bocce court at the east end of the parcel does get occasional use, but we are aware of little other recreational use of the land.

With the construction of the new commuter rail station on Guest Street nearby, we believe that the parcel creates a high value opportunity for transportation-oriented affordable residential development.

We are cognizant of our obligations to preserve and enhance open space and recreational opportunities in the Commonwealth and would like to see a portion of the development proceeds used for the purpose of improving other DCR facilities in the area, especially the nearby DCR pool.

Additionally we want to include the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation in this process. This local non-profit has a history of developing and maintaining affordable housing units in the Allston and Brighton Community.

Finally, we recognize the importance of transparency and an inclusive process in the disposition of public land and we hope to structure a competitive process that will yield the most value for the Commonwealth while factoring in our above stated goals.

We have begun to discuss alternative process approaches, but we thought we should consult you both before going further. We will follow up with you to arrange a meeting to discuss how to move a public conversation forward.

Sincerely,



Senator William N. Brownsberger
Second Suffolk & Middlesex



Representative Michael J. Moran
18th Suffolk