

SENATE No. 7

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A PARK ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE WACHUSETT DAM IN THE TOWN OF CLINTON.

[Metropolitan Affairs.]

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION,
20 SOMERSET STREET, BOSTON, December 1, 1931.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts in General Court assembled.

On May 16, 1931, the following resolve, chapter 19, was approved by the Governor:

Resolved, That the metropolitan district commission is hereby directed to consider the subject matter of current senate document numbered two hundred and ten, relative to establishing a park on land adjacent to the Wachusett dam in the town of Clinton, said park to include an area for the parking of motor vehicles and a comfort station. Said commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation hereunder, and such further information and such recommendations relative to the subject matter aforesaid as it deems necessary or advisable, together with estimates of cost of any action recommended and drafts of legislation necessary to carry any recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate on or before December first in the current year, and shall file, at the same time, a copy of said report with the budget commissioner.

The Commission has considered the subject matter of the current Senate document No. 210, relative to establishing a park on land adjacent to the Wachusett Dam in Clinton, said park to include an area for the parking of motor vehicles and a comfort station, and reports as follows:

The entrance to the Wachusett Dam is at the top of a hill on the main road leading from Clinton to Worcester through Boylston and just outside of the settled portion of Clinton. The road at the entrance and for some little distance therefrom is of sufficient elevation to command a good view of the reservoir. On Sundays and holidays during the summer months many people, in ever-increasing numbers, most of whom come in automobiles, visit the dam and patronize a privately owned lunch stand and Spa located on the opposite side of Boylston Street and about five hundred feet southerly from the entrance to the dam. These automobiles come from both directions and park on both sides of the road for a distance at times of around a thousand feet. The traffic is congested and pedestrians are continually crossing and recrossing the roadway through the lines of moving vehicles. On week days the number of visitors at the dam is comparatively few, though perhaps increasing a little each year.

There are no toilet conveniences available at the entrance to the dam other than the very limited facilities provided at the Spa, which are entirely inadequate to meet the demand and at times have overflowed.

On warm evenings during the summer months there is considerable motor vehicle parking along Boylston Street immediately south of the dam, by persons seeking cool locations. These come from other cities and towns as well as Clinton. This practice interferes little if any with through traffic, and a park in this vicinity would attract few if any of these persons.

The only land owned by the Commonwealth in this vicinity, adaptable at all for park purposes, lies just south of the dam and to the west of Boylston Street, and

slopes from the street to the reservoir. Any public use of this area as a park or parking area would be detrimental to the maintenance of the purity of the water supply.

The only other land in the vicinity available for park purposes is a tract of about forty-two acres lying to the east of Boylston Street. The lunch and Spa building is upon this property. It is privately owned and its assessed valuation is \$8,500.

The Commission does not feel from its investigation that there is a general demand for a park in this vicinity, or that the Metropolitan Water District should be asked to construct or maintain the same. If such a park were built the drainage of the area would present a serious obstacle to the preservation of the purity of the water supply.

It might be well to improve traffic conditions by widening Boylston Street for a distance of a thousand feet or so south of the dam sufficiently to allow adequate sidewalk space and width for parking on either side of the street, leaving room for two lanes of moving vehicles. This could be done by the authorities having control of the roadway. The surface drainage from that portion of Boylston Street immediately south of the dam can be diverted out of the Wachusett Reservoir drainage area from the two existing catch basins either northerly to the present surface drain to the Lancaster Mills pond or southerly to the Assabet watershed if conditions develop so as to require it.

A small sanitary could be constructed directly opposite the entrance to the Wachusett Dam upon land owned by the Commonwealth in the embankment between Boylston Street and Wilson Street. This would be a convenience to the visitors to the dam, and would be kept open during the summer months. It would involve some little expense for attendants, light, water and upkeep.

To care for the sewage from this building it would be necessary for the town sewer to be extended up Boylston Street a distance of about twenty-three hundred and

fifty feet, and the sewer, if built to this point, should be extended a further distance of about five hundred feet to give a connection to the Spa.

The cost of a sanitary as planned in considering this report would be about \$5,000. To extend the sewer along Boylston Street to furnish a connection for the sanitary and the Spa would cost about \$4,000. This sewer extension should be built by the town of Clinton, with perhaps some contribution on the part of the Metropolitan Water District and the owner of the Spa.

A bill authorizing the construction of the sanitary at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 to be assessed on the Metropolitan Water District accompanies this report for the convenience of the General Court should it desire to authorize its construction.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS B. KENISTON,
FRANK A. BAYRD,
WM. F. ROGERS,
C. H. J. KIMBALL,
GEO. B. WASON,

Metropolitan District Commission.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Two.

An Act authorizing the Metropolitan District Commission to construct a Comfort Station near the Entrance to the Wachusett Dam on Boylston Street in the Town of Clinton.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The metropolitan district commission
2 is hereby authorized to construct a comfort station
3 near the entrance to the Wachusett dam on Boylston
4 street in the town of Clinton at an expense not ex-
5 ceeding four thousand dollars; provided, that proper
6 sewer connections can be obtained and that an
7 amount sufficient for the purposes hereof shall first
8 have been appropriated, the same to be assessed upon
9 the cities and towns of the metropolitan water district.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.



