Ostrow Electric Awarded First Phase of Walden Pond State Reservation’s New Visitor Center Project

NECA Boston / IBEW Local 103 contractor to provide solar parking canopy and electric vehicle charging stations; Governor Patrick, state and local officials at groundbreaking ceremony

The renewable and energy conservation project at the landmark site supports the governor’s commitment to growing Massachusetts’ renewable energy capacity and improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

“As the birthplace of the conservation movement, Walden Pond is an important natural landmark for the Commonwealth and nation,” said Governor Patrick. “These improvements are about good stewardship for this generation and the next.”

The new Visitor Center will be a near Net Zero energy facility and a model of green technology, designed to achieve LEED Silver certification. The new building will feature interior and exterior exhibits, public bathrooms and larger meeting and administration space. The project also includes pedestrian safety improvements and greater accessibility for people of all abilities.

“Under the leadership of Governor Patrick, Massachusetts is once again on the cutting edge of environmental protection and clean energy technology,” said Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Maeve Valyey Bartlett. “The construction of the new Visitor Center at Walden Pond highlights the Patrick Administration’s investment in our parks, open spaces and public resources.”

The Department of Conservation and Resources (DCR) has received a Department of Energy Resources (DOER) $50,000 Clean Energy Grant for the Solar PV Canopy and a $130,000 Zero Net Energy Building Grant for the Visitor Center. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will provide $6,800 in funding for the acquisition of two Level 2 dual-head charging stations as part of their Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP): Workplace Charging.

“The Department of Conservation and Resources is committed to investing in our parks and facilities across the Commonwealth,” said DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. “The improvements to DCR’s Walden Pond will lower operational costs, be more energy efficient, all while creating a world-class visitor center that will be enjoyed by visitors from around the world.”

“The new Walden Pond visitor center will be a shining example of the Patrick Administration’s commitment to constructing state of the art buildings, reduce energy costs for decades, and support our environmental goals,” said DOER Commissioner Meg Lusardi. “Zero net energy buildings are the next frontier and the Commonwealth is at the forefront of this incredibly exciting national movement.”

This leading-by-example project perfectly integrates Massachusetts’ efforts on clean energy, green buildings and low-carbon transportation options, including electric vehicles,” said MassDEP Commissioner David W. Cash. “Visitors will see that the clean energy future is here.”

“NECA Boston, Ostrow Electric, and Local 103 are proud to be part of this landmark Walden Pond project in our ongoing commitment to be at the forefront of renewable energy installations in Massachusetts,” said NECA Boston Executive Manager Glenn Kingsbury.

State Electric Corporation Underway with Electrical Construction of Twenty Two Liberty at the Fan Pier in Boston’s Seaport

NECA contractor teams with GC: Turner Construction, Boston, MA; EE: Cosentini Associates, Cambridge, MA; Architect: CBT Architects, Boston, MA; Owner: The Fallon Company, Boston, MA

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The Holiday season is a fitting time to pay tribute to the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino for his decades of leadership, accomplishments and dedication in building Boston into the vibrant city it is in 2014. It is also an ideal time to look forward to 2015 and beyond, as Mayor Martin Walsh and his administration solidify plans to build on the many key projects that are already in the pipeline, and lay groundwork for many others that are under review by the city and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA).

NECA Boston and the City’s entire construction industry have great reason to pay homage to Mayor Menino. His vision and tireless efforts for rebuilding all parts of our city are well-documented. That vision and dedication have ensured dynamic development projects throughout the city would be built. The many projects that have redefined and rejuvenated our city stand as testimony – spanning from the Zakim Bridge and the North End to the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the Seaport and Innovation District, from the Theater District to Downtown Crossing, and from the Back Bay to the Fenway. The South End, Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, Dorchester, Roxbury, South Boston and East Boston, also have all seen dynamic new residential, mixed-use, and commercial developments that are making all neighborhoods in Boston more livable. These energy-efficient buildings, many of which have renewable energy features, including solar power, have revitalized the union construction industry, translating to more work and opportunity for our adept NECA contractors and the highly skilled IBEW electricians and technicians whom we employ to construct them. NECA Boston is proud to be an integral part of the construction teams that are reshaping Boston’s skyline, thanks to our common interests in having an equal playing field for all qualified contractors and our solid working relationships with Mayor Menino and Mayor Walsh.

The bottom line is that the projects that have rejuvenated Boston and which were made possible by Mayor Menino and the BRA, and their leadership and commitment to building a better Boston, have been the key factor in Boston’s economic recovery, especially for the construction industry. We are confident, based on his first year in office and his years of personal dedication to and involvement in the industry, that Mayor Walsh has much the same commitment as Mayor Menino in making Boston a better place to live and work. In wishing our construction industry partners, building owners and developers throughout the region, and our legislative leaders all the best during the Holiday season and in 2015, NECA Boston looks forward to working with you all in building an even brighter, energy-efficient future for Boston.

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, 2014
Mayor Walsh’s recently released “Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030” housing plan is expected to create $21 billion in new development and an estimated 51,000 construction jobs through the year 2030.

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