

**MMOC Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2022 ZOOM Meeting, 6:00-7:45pm**  
**As approved November 9, 2022**  
Minutes prepared by Matt Eddy, MMOC Staff

**Member Attendees:**

- Tom Brady, Kelly Brilliant, Elisabeth Cianciola, Parker James, Lisa Kumpf, Arleyn Levee, Kay Mathew, Karen Mauney-Brodek, Marilyn Ray Smith, Tom Timmons, Matt Eddy (MMOC staff).

**Other Attendees:**

- Jun Lee (ENC), Emily Norton (CRWA), Arlene Mattison (BGSA), Caroline Reeves, Jack Schleifer (ENC), Carroll Williamson.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous MMOC meeting:**

- Once a quorum was present, Karen Mauney-Brodek moved that the minutes from the June 15, 2022 MMOC meeting be approved, and Arleyn Levee seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, with Lisa Kumpf abstaining.

**Phase 2 Update:**

- Dredging continues at Work Area 6 (just upstream of the cofferdam, near Back Bay Yards), including expanded Phragmites removal funded by Brookline and Boston. Approval from MWRA is still pending for dredging in the area near pipes parallel to the cofferdam.
- Tom Brady reported that he, Tom Timmons, and other representatives of the city and town joined the Army Corps in walking several work areas where landscape installation is complete. The USACE has given “provisional acceptance” for the landscaping in these areas based on the numbers of plants installed in each location. Provisional acceptance triggers the beginning of the two-year guarantee period for the trees, shrubs, and turf, after which maintenance responsibilities will be handed off to the non-federal sponsors. Tom Brady is in conversation with John Rudd (USACE) to secure a calendar of hand-off dates by work area.
- Construction fencing remains up at Work Area 1 (Leverett Pond) as landscaping work continues there. Tom Brady predicted that the construction fences may be removed as early as the week of August 1, 2022.
- A number of MMOC members asked Tom B about invasive species treatment. Tom replied that Charter and its subcontractors continue to address invasive species at times of year when the plants are most susceptible to herbicide treatment – typically in September. Rodeo is the primary herbicide for treatment of Japanese knotweed.
- Matt Eddy asked Tom Brady about the likely effects of cofferdam removal on water levels in the Muddy River along the Riverway. Tom replied that he is involved in conversations with the Army Corps about this question.

## **Oil discharge at Village Brook Drain**

- There was lively discussion of concerns about the fuel discharge from Brook House into the Village Brook drain. Matt Eddy shared an email he received from Steven Ross at DEP, summarizing DEP's ongoing work with the Licensed Site Professional (Clean Harbors Environmental Services) hired by Brook House to monitor the area and undertake an Immediate Response Action Plan. Relevant documentation is available at the [DEP Reportable Release File Viewer](#) (DEP Release Tracking Number: 3-36858; CHES Job No: 2108510797); the site is updated regularly.
- Several MMOC members expressed their view that DEP wasn't applying sufficient pressure to the Brook House to address the problem and communicate with the public. Tom Brady responded that DEP had determined that this discharge was "de minimus" and did not represent a significant threat to the health of persons or animals in the area. He further stated that he had strong confidence in DEP's response to the spill and that it was being handled properly by professionals with many years of experience in the field.
- Matt reported that Caroline Reeves, representing the Muddy Waters Initiative, contacted Steven Ross and received an email reply that Mr. Ross would encourage Clean Harbors to discuss the posting of public signage in the area.
- Separately, Matt reported having observed a contractor working with Brookline DPW undertaking a sewer lining project along Pond Ave. Once complete, the project will prevent leakage of sanitary sewage into the stormwater system.

## **Phase 1 Update:**

- Tom Timmons, Kellie Connelly (Terraink), Kelly Brilliant, and Matt Eddy had a constructive conversation to discuss Phase 1 maintenance, although there is not currently a consensus as to maintenance standards for the landscaping there. Tom reported that additional shrubs were planted and mulched in several locations in the Phase 1 area. Leahy Landscaping may provide watering of newly installed shrubs, as they are responsible for shrub survivorship for one year after planting.
- Regular scheduled maintenance activities continue throughout Phase 1. There is general dissatisfaction with the condition of the turf in the area, but costs and site conditions impede efforts to address turf health in a more comprehensive way.

## **Other:**

- Upon a suggestion from Karen, Kelly strongly concurred and proposed we revisit our Goals and Outcomes from the MMOC's successful retreat held in 2019.

## **Subcommittee Reports:**

- Kay Mathew stated that the Communications subcommittee continues to make progress on website content; a more complete design is forthcoming.
- Elisabeth Cianciola reported that the Water Quality subcommittee had not received Environmental Monitor updates for the past month. The focus of the subcommittee is now on assessing the response to the Village Brook oil discharge and preparation for a technical meeting to discuss post-construction water quality monitoring.

- Matt summarized a field meeting with Kellie Connelly (Terraink) and Tom Timmons to work towards identifying common standards for assessing the condition of the Phase 1 landscape. The LMSC will work with Tom and Kellie to refine the language for the 2023-2025 landscape maintenance contract.
  - Several MMOC members asked the LMSC to present their draft performance standards checklist to the full MMOC at a future meeting.

**Public Comment:**

- Caroline Reeves stated that MWI will be hosting an event celebrating their annual installation of the Watergoat at Ipswich St. on Sunday, July 17.

**Organization Member Updates:**

- Lisa Kumpf reported that CRWA intends to release its annual water quality “grades” for Charles River sub-watersheds next week. The Muddy River’s grade is expected to be a C-, which is up from its previous mark of D-. The grade is based largely on monthly E. coli measurements taken at Commonwealth Ave.
- Charlesgate Alliance hosted their tree dedication event on Tuesday, June 28 at 9:30AM (co-hosted by ENC). Many thanks to all who attended and spoke.
- Parker James reported that the Charlesgate wall removal project continues to suffer from unspecified delays.
- Kelly Brilliant reported that the Fenway Alliance’s PorchFest event was a great success.
- Although Jan Henderson was not present, she sent an email inviting MMOC members to explore the MASCO Outside program described here: <https://www.masco.org/enhancing-the-lma/outside>

**Updates on Other Projects in or Near the Project Area:**

- Longwood Place: Kelly Brilliant (who sits on the CAC for this project) summarized a conversation she had with Skanska regarding community impacts for this project. The concerns as related to the river are shading, bicycle access, and (perhaps) stormwater management.

**Upcoming MMOC Meetings:** There will be NO August meeting for the MMOC; next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 6:00PM.

Adjourned 7:45PM