

MMOC Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022 ZOOM Meeting, 6:00-7:15pm
As approved November 9, 2022
Minutes prepared by Matt Eddy, MMOC Staff

Member Attendees:

- Tom Brady, Kelly Brilliant, Elisabeth Cianciola, Jan Henderson, Lisa Kumpf, Arleyn Levee, Kay Mathew, Karen Mauney-Brodek, Marilyn Ray Smith, Freddie Veikley, Matt Eddy (MMOC staff).

Other Attendees:

- Pam Beale (Charlesgate Alliance), Jun Lee (ENC), Arlene Mattison (Brookline Greenspace Alliance), Caroline Reeves, Carroll Williamson

Phase 2 Update:

- A number of MMOC members and regular guests were not present because they were attending Boston Parks' public meeting on the proposed pathway repairs project for the Back Bay Fens. The expectation is that the work will be put out to bid in summer 2023.
- Work Area 6 (at the Back Bay Yards) remains in a holding pattern until MWRA approval is achieved.
- Tom Brady reported that the focus of Charter's work is now in Work Areas 11 and 12 – specifically preparing for removal of a large area of Phragmites between the Fire Alarm HQ and the Duck House. Access road preparation is underway.
 - Charter and the Army Corps are aware of issues with escape of Phragmites root masses and their subsequent germination downstream in Charlesgate. Root balls have been removed from that area and regular monitoring will be necessary during the excavation work at the Fire Alarm HQ.
 - Funding from the City of Boston for Phragmites removal was passed in the previous fiscal year and therefore did not include funds for landscape restoration once the Phragmites is removed. Those funds are now under negotiation in the new fiscal year.
- The target date for completion of all dredging work remains spring 2023, but this depends on weather conditions through the winter.
- Sandbags have been removed from the edge of the pedestrian path adjacent to the Back Bay Yards. Tom Brady stated that this removal was necessary to accommodate trucks and a crane involved in installation of the Carlton St. Footbridge, but that the Army Corps had authorized the sandbags' permanent removal.
- Matt Eddy presented photos of debris and Phragmites root balls in the river at Charlesgate (Olmsted Bridge). This is an area that is the responsibility of DCR to maintain, which they do by boat approximately once per year (in the fall). There was discussion as to whether more frequent watersheet cleaning was necessary and/or required. Boat work is expensive.
 - Caroline Reeves commented that the absence of the Muddy Waters Initiative's Watergoat at Ipswich Street likely contributed to the increase in observed trash at the Olmsted Bridge.

- Movement of material in and out of the underpass portion of the bridge makes this a difficult area to clean regularly.

Carlton St. Footbridge:

- The main span of the footbridge is to be installed in the early morning hours of Thursday, October 13. There was much rejoicing of MMOC members for reaching this milestone. The bridge and its ramps are expected to be open to pedestrian traffic in late spring.

Phase 1 Update:

- Matt summarized an email he received from Tom Timmons regarding Phase 1 maintenance. Recent activities include core aeration, slice seeding, top-dressing, and slope maintenance. Forty additional shrubs are expected to be planted this fall. Shrub pruning and fall clean-up are anticipated; per MMOC feedback, leaves on the embankments will not be removed, and leaves on the upland areas will be removed by hand rake rather than blower.
- Invasive plant management is ongoing in the Phase 1 area but needs regular attention and communication. Matt shared photos of a Phragmites stem and dodder nearby.
- There was brief discussion of the Phase 1 Health Assessment Tool presented last month. Matt received feedback from Jack Schleifer and Jun Lee (ENC). Some present felt the Tool may still be too long and burdensome to be used regularly. Matt will announce a deadline for feedback from MMOC members so the Tool can be revised promptly.

Water Quality Leadership and Technical Meeting:

- Kelly Brilliant summarized a meeting of the non-federal sponsors and their technical staff, held on Wednesday, October 28, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss post-construction water quality monitoring requirements. The non-federal sponsors agreed to ask CDM Smith to prepare a sampling protocol/scoping document that would align with the baseline water quality study performed in 2007-2009. Minor modifications of the protocol (testing locations, parameters) may be warranted to improve data quality, but every effort will be made to ensure the datasets are comparable. Ryan Woods (Boston Parks) is taking the lead on communicating with CDM Smith; the scoping document will be shared with the MMOC's Water Quality subcommittee, probably in December.

Public portion of MMOC meeting then adjourned, 7:15PM.