

MMOC Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2022 ZOOM Meeting, 6:00-7:30pm
As approved January 11, 2023
Minutes prepared by Matt Eddy, MMOC Staff

Member Attendees:

- Tom Brady, Kelly Brilliant, Elisabeth Cianciola, Kurt Gaertner, Jan Henderson, Parker James, Lisa Kumpf, Arleyn Levee, Kay Mathew, Karen Mauney-Brodek, Arlene Mattison (representing Brookline Greenspace Alliance), Tom Timmons, Freddie Veikley, Matt Eddy (MMOC staff).

Other Attendees:

- Jun Lee (ENC), Jack Schleifer (ENC), Carroll Williamson.

MMOC Member Business:

- Kelly Brilliant announced the re-establishment of the MMOC's Operations Subcommittee, which will host a meeting in early December 2022. The Operations Subcommittee will consider possible revisions to the bylaws, elections of officers, the MMOC membership application process, performance review for the MMOC staff-person, and a structure for a possible MMOC retreat/reflection. MMOC members who wish to join the subcommittee should contact Kelly directly.
- Lisa Kumpf moved that the minutes from the MMOC meeting held July 13, 2022 be approved without revision, and Kelly Brilliant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Kelly Brilliant moved that the minutes from the MMOC meeting held September 14, 2022 be approved without revision, and Parker James seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Kelly Brilliant moved that the minutes from the MMOC meeting held October 12, 2022 be approved without revision, and Lisa Kumpf seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Phase 2 Update:

- Tom Brady updated the MMOC on the latest activities for Phase 2. Overall dredging work is roughly 87% complete, but the final areas will take time. Communications between the nonfederal sponsors, the Army Corps, and state regulators continue to be constructive.
 - Phragmites removal continues in Work Areas 11 and 12 (the Fens), with dredging of root material expected this winter and spring. Sediment from this area is destined for out-of-state landfills. Phragmites observation and treatment in other work areas is ongoing and will be a regular management task for the foreseeable future.

- MWRA has granted permission for Phragmites removal to commence in Work Area 6 (Back Bay Yards), which will likely happen after Work Areas 11 and 12 are completed. Actual dredging in Work Area 6 still requires MWRA approval. The nonfederal sponsors are still in dialog about long-term plans for the flood restriction control device (cofferdam).
- Fencing, pathway installation, hydroseeding, and planting are all complete for the season. Plants and turf are looking much healthier than they were during the peak of the summer drought.
- A site visit by representatives of the Mass DEP went well.
- Updates: Nick Moreno has left the employ of the City of Boston as chair of the Conservation Commission. Charter field staff Stephen LaRoche has moved on to his next project; Kate Jacintho continues to serve as Charter's Project Manager for the MRRP.
- Construction fences in Work Areas 7 through 10 will remain in place through at least summer 2023 at the request of Boston Parks. Fences protect paths and new plantings from harm by pedestrians until they are fully established.
- The MEPA Annual Update, which is expected to be a compilation of data for the years 2013-2021, is expected to be published in draft form on Thursday, November 10.
- DCR plans to perform its annual clean-up of the Charlesgate area in late November or early December.
- There is new public signage, posted by Brookline DPW at Leverett Pond, regarding the intermittent fuel discharge there. Tightness testing of fuel tanks is underway. Questions regarding this work should be directed to Steve Ross at Mass DEP.

Carlton St Footbridge:

- Tom Brady reported that Aetna Bridge Company has met all its critical path deadlines as related to MBTA closures of the D-line. Planking over tracks is now complete. Remaining work includes ramp construction and landscaping, but steel fabrication may be delayed due to supply chain issues. The footbridge is likely (but not certain) to be completed and opened by June 2023.

Phase 1 Update:

- Recent activities in the Phase 1 area include installation of new shrubs at Avenue Louis Pasteur and mulching of previously planted shrubs along Park Drive. Invasives treatment in the area is also ongoing.
- Per request by the Landscape Maintenance subcommittee, leaves are not being removed from the embankment planting beds but are being left in place as natural mulch for winter.
 - The question of leaves accumulating in the river was discussed. Leaf litter is likely to accumulate at the river bottom, making the river shallower over time, and it contributes to phosphorus loads, reducing water quality. Some leaf

accumulation is healthy, but too much may present a problem. Tom Brady and Tom Timmons reported that their respective municipalities do not actively engage in removing leaf litter from the water's surface but try to seek a balance between the health of the wetlands resource and that of the managed landscape. This effort is made complex by the fact that the property line runs down the center of the river.

- Healthy embankment plantings provide a barrier for at least some of the leaves being blown by wind into the river.
- Karen Mauney-Brodek suggested that a clearer, more carefully thought-out leaf management plan would be a good goal.
- Tom Timmons reported that the revised maintenance contract for 2023-2025 is complete and incorporates many of the suggestions made by the Landscape Maintenance subcommittee. This document will be presented to potential bidders in the coming weeks.
- In April 2022, USACE conducted its annual Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) for the Phase 1 area. The report was issued to the nonfederal sponsors in July 2022 and rated the site as “Minimally Acceptable” – largely due to the absence of key data related to bathymetry and culvert inspections. Since then, bathymetry has been completed and the culvert inspection is scheduled.

MMOC Subcommittee Reports:

- Kay Mathew, representing the Communications subcommittee, reported that launch of the new MMOC website is expected very soon.
 - The MMOC will host its annual public meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 (Olmsted's birthday). The Communications subcommittee is now working on finalizing the venue and developing a program. A “Save the Date” card will be emailed to the full MMOC mailing list.
- Lisa Kumpf, representing the Water Quality subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee is awaiting delivery of the MEPA annual update as well as a draft of CDM Smith's protocol for post-construction water quality monitoring. Phragmites root-ball monitoring also continues.
- Freddie Veikley representing the Landscape Maintenance subcommittee, reported that the focus of the subcommittee is on writing a comment letter to BRDA regarding the proposed Longwood Place development at 305 Brookline Ave. The development will cast significant shadows on sections of the Riverway and the Phase 1 area.
 - The LMSC is also preparing to work with Boston Parks to develop a clear plan for supplementary tree planting in the Phase 1 area, scheduled for spring 2023.
 - The LMSC is tracking a MassDOT initial proposal to install a bike lane along Brookline Ave between the Fenway and Park Drive. Lane reconfigurations could potentially result in a widening of the sidewalk there and would therefore influence decisions about tree placement and desire path management.
 - Monitoring of new plantings is ongoing.

Member Organization Updates:

- **Brookline Greenspace Alliance:** Arlene Mattison stated that the Alliance is also in the process of developing a comment letter for the Longwood Place project.
- **Longwood Collective:** Jan Henderson summarized a successful fall season of outdoor programming.
 - Regarding the proposal for green infrastructure installation along Avenue Louis Pasteur, Jan stated that Simmons University had recently cleared the site and removed the fence; they have also agreed to maintain any installed landscaping and rain gardens in that area. The Longwood Collective is actively seeking sources of funding to complete this project.
- **Charlesgate Alliance:** Parker James reported that the Alliance is eagerly looking forward to DCR's cleanup of Charlesgate. He has observed that the box culverts and the Pens Pond Bridge appear to be collapsing, and he is in communication with DCR and MassDOT regarding those.
 - New trees planted in Charlesgate are going dormant for the winter; thanks to ENC's Jack Schleifer for his effort to care for those trees.
 - The stone wall removal project is currently stalled, but there is hope for progress in the coming months.
 - Design work for rerouting the Bowker-Storrow interchange is moving along.
- **Emerald Necklace Conservancy:** Karen Mauney Brodek stated that ENC has begun a new fiscal year and is now fully staffed. One key focus is developing and finalizing the tree inspection and pruning plan for the next seven years.
 - ENC's OlmstedNOW programming was a big success.
- **Charles River Watershed Association:** Lisa Kumpf summarized reorganization efforts and title changes at CRWA, which are now complete. CRWA hopes to increase its level of focus on activities in and near the City of Boston. CRWA has recently joined with the Conservation Law Foundation in a lawsuit against the US Environmental Protection Agency to enforce stormwater permitting authority for large parcel owners in the Charles River watershed. Although this may be a 10-20 year process, one effect could be a significant reduction in Muddy River stormwater pollution.
- **Fenway Alliance:** Kelly Brilliant stated that the Alliance has recently undergone a structural shift, with Kelly and Genevieve Day now serving as co-executive directors. Their annual FACES event is scheduled for Friday, December 2, and will honor the contributions of Alliance Board Member Ted Landsmark.

Public Comment:

- No members of the public offered question or comment.

Upcoming MMOC Meetings:

- Weds, December 14 and Weds, January 11, 6:00 PM

Adjourned 7:30PM.