

MMOC Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022 ZOOM Meeting, 6:00-7:45pm
As approved January 11, 2023
Minutes prepared by Matt Eddy, MMOC Staff

Member Attendees:

- Tom Brady, Kelly Brilliant, Elisabeth Cianciola, Elton Elperin, Parker James, Dira Johanif (representing CRWA), Arleyn Levee, Jack Schleifer (representing ENC), Marilyn Ray Smith, Tom Timmons, Freddie Veikley, Matt Eddy (MMOC staff).

Other Attendees:

- Carol Lasky, Caroline Reeves, Carroll Williamson.

MMOC Member Business:

- A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, so approval of minutes from MMOC meeting held November 9, 2022 was postponed to January 2023.
- Kelly Brilliant and Arleyn Levee summarized the recent meeting of the Operations Subcommittee. Members include Kelly Brilliant, Kay Mathew, Arleyn Levee, Parker James, Elisabeth Cianciola, and Freddie Veikley. The Subcommittee is preparing a slate of officers for possible election and reviewing previous editions of the bylaws, among other operations issues. The subcommittee will also be reviewing the MMOC's annual budget prior to the January MMOC meeting.
- Reminder that the MMOC's annual public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023 from 6:00-8:30PM at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Phase 2 Update:

- Charter's Phragmites-related dredging continues in the Fens area near Mother's Rest Playground, with visible progress. Once work is completed there (presumably in early spring), equipment will be redeployed to Work Area 6 (Back Bay Yards) for additional dredging there. Final approval from MWRA for dredging plans in Work Area 6 are still pending.
- Stone-dust paths along the southern edge of the Victory Gardens have been constructed and are now open to pedestrian traffic. Cornus shrubs appear to be growing well in that area.
- Matt Eddy raised a question about the condition of the watershed and turbidity fence at Back Bay Yards, where significant amounts of trash and Phragmites root material has collected. Tom Brady replied that clean-up of the watershed in that area is the responsibility of the contractor, and that they were likely to clean it up before a significant freeze of the river.
- BPRD has been notified of several large fallen limbs along the Riverway. Pedestrian paths have been cleared, but the remaining limbs will be addressed as time permits. There are no safety concerns for the remaining material.

- Modest erosion of stone-dust paths at Work Area 3 (Riverway @ Brookline Ave) are not a significant concern to Tom Brady. Additional foot traffic in that area is expected to compact and further stabilize that material over time.
- The Army Corps has presented to the nonfederal sponsors a document listing the proposed dates of the end of the guarantee period for landscaping, listed by work area. These dates will represent the point in time where the nonfederal sponsors will conduct their final inspection of landscape elements and, if deemed acceptable, the nonfederal sponsors will assume full maintenance responsibility thereafter. Turf areas lying outside the fences in Work Areas 3 and 4 (near Netherlands Rd) have already been handed over. The next deadline is October 15, 2023, when inspection and acceptance of tree and shrub beds is anticipated for Work Areas 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9. Work Areas 1, 2, and 10 will be inspected in October 2024, while Work Areas 11 and 12 are scheduled for handoff in October 2025 or after.
 - Freddie Veikley inquired as to the process by which Boston Parks and Recreation will secure funding for these maintenance activities. Tom Timmons replied that a scope-of-work document would be prepared in January 2023, a budget developed, and a request for funds submitted to the city thereafter, with approval anticipated before June 2023. Tom estimated that the budget for maintaining Work Areas 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 would be roughly three times the current budget for the Phase 1 area.

Carlton St Footbridge:

- Tom Brady reported that progress on footbridge reinstallation continues on schedule with a likely opening date in June 2023. All digging is complete and the remaining work is entirely above-ground. Landscaping of the area will be coordinated with landscaping work in the adjacent Work Area 6 so as not to duplicate effort.

Phase 1 Update:

- Tom Timmons reported that Boston Parks had awarded the 2023 Phase 1 maintenance contract to A&M Home Services. A&M will retain Barrett Tree Company as their certified arborist, and Terraink will continue its supervisory work. Tom is “cautiously optimistic” that A&M will do excellent maintenance work per the existing contract specifications.
- Tom Brady reiterated information he’d presented at the last MMOC meeting regarding the USACE annual Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) for the Phase 1 area, conducted April 2022. 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 flapper valve inspections. (Note that the rating system includes only three categories – Acceptable, Minimally Acceptable, and Unacceptable; it is not a finely scaled evaluation system). Since then, bathymetry has been completed and the flapper valve inspection is scheduled.

Summary of Recent MRRP Cabinet Meeting:

- Kelly Brilliant summarized key items from the Cabinet meeting held December 8, 2022:
 - A draft of the MEPA Annual Update for the years 2014-2021 has been received by all parties and is under review by MMOC subcommittees. The draft contains relatively little concrete information, so the MMOC is likely to push for a more comprehensive final version that incorporates actionable data and serves the interests of both the MMOC and the nonfederal sponsors.
 - MEPA is no longer actively engaged in reviewing these reports, but Kurt Gaertner has communicated (via email) that the Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs still expects the reports to be completed.
 - The start date for the nonfederal sponsors' quarterly assessment of post-construction water quality has been postponed to the fall once all dredging work is completed. Elisabeth Cianciola expressed concern about this change. Kelly will follow through with Ryan Woods for additional details on the sampling protocol.
 - Nonfederal sponsors are aware of the "Minimally Acceptable" grade from the USACE inspection (see above) and are in communication to reach a satisfactory resolution.
 - Cabinet members initiated a discussion about the historic bridges along the Muddy River, with the intent of clarifying jurisdictional confusion as well as long-term maintenance and restoration. There was general consensus by Cabinet members that any major work on bridges would most likely come from private, grant, and possibly earmarked sources.
 - The MMOC's Historic Resources subcommittee (including Elton Elperin and Arleyn Levee, with other volunteers welcome) will convene with ENC representatives to discuss how to move forward.

MEPA Annual Update: Summary and Commenting Plan

- The Draft Annual Update has been delivered to the MMOC's Water Quality and Landscape Maintenance subcommittees for review. Each subcommittee will compare the contents of the Update to the requirements as listed in the EOEEA Secretary's Certificates, keeping in mind that the scope of the project has changed. Subcommittees will present a summary of their recommendations to the full MMOC at the January meeting; following final review, those recommendations will be delivered to CDM-Smith.

MMOC Website Launch (15 minutes)

- Carol Lasky (Cahoots Design and member of MMOC Communications Subcommittee) presented the MMOC's new website and walked members through its structure and design. The site will have a "soft launch" later in December with a more celebrated official launch in January. MMOC members are encouraged to send editorial suggestions and edits to Carol and/or Matt Eddy.

Public Comment:

- No members of the public were present at this point in the meeting.

Upcoming MMOC Meetings:

- Weds, January 11, and Weds, February 8, 6:00 PM

Adjourned 7:45PM.