

MMOC Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023 ZOOM Meeting, 6:00-7:00pm
As Approved March 8, 2023
Minutes prepared by Matt Eddy, MMOC Staff

Member Attendees:

- Tom Brady, Elisabeth Cianciola, Elton Elperin, Jan Henderson, Parker James, Lisa Kumpf, Jack Schleifer (representing ENC), Marilyn Ray Smith, Tom Timmons, Matt Eddy (MMOC administrator).

Other Attendees:

- Conrad Crawford (CRWA), Dan Moon (ENC), Caroline Reeves, Carroll Williamson.

Phase 2 Update:

- Tom Brady reported that one of Charter’s bins for sediment treatment had recently been dismantled, reflecting the winding down of dredging work project-wide. Landscape restoration will now commence in that area. Some small amount of additional in-river work remains for Charter, but they are hoping for frozen ground to move heavy vehicles without damaging the landscape.
- There was discussion of the anticipation of handoff of landscape maintenance responsibility from Charter and the Army Corps to the non-federal sponsors. Several work areas are to be transferred in October 2023, but only if those sites pass final inspection by representatives of Boston and Brookline. Tom emphasized his opinion that the maintenance guidelines (per the 2005 Maintenance and Management Plan) are extremely detailed and sufficient to guide the non-federal sponsors in their maintenance work.
- Tom Timmons reported that Boston Parks and Recreation had submitted a request for \$300,000 for maintenance funds for the Work Areas to be managed by Boston beginning in October 2023. Maintenance contracts for those areas will be modeled after the one being applied to Phase 1. Tom is open to suggestions for customizing the Phase 2 maintenance contract to account for any unique features of Phase 2 that MMOC members may be concerned about.
- Brookline Department of Public Works recently submitted an “Expanded Environmental Notification Form” (EENF) to MEPA in regards to the anticipated dredging of Willow Pond and bank restoration along Leverett Pond. Learn more [here](#). Comments may be submitted, with a deadline of Friday, February 17. Dredging work is anticipated to begin in spring 2024.
- Matt Eddy presented recent photos of Phase 2, including:
 - A view of the Back Bay Fens from Richardson Bridge, showing a frozen river and the extent of the removed Phragmites.
 - Evidence of erosion near the Victory Gardens, with a filter sock in place to reduce the severity of the problem.

- Flooding of the upper Riverway caused by a turbidity curtain getting caught in the opening of the Flow Restriction Control Device at Back Bay Yards.
- Phragmites root balls recently observed in Charlesgate, which have been reported twice to John Rudd at USACE.
- Last week, USACE gave a highly technical presentation to the non-federal sponsors regarding the hydrology of the Riverway and the options for the long-term fate of the Flow Restriction Control Device (cofferdam) at Back Bay Yards. Tom Brady reported that all parties are “digesting” that information and no decisions have been made, nor is there any timeline for decision-making. This was an area of strong interest among a number of MMOC members.

Carlton St Footbridge:

- Tom Brady stated that the work on the bridge ramps continues on schedule. The contractor, the Town, and the Army Corps are coordinating dates for landscaping in the area. There is no official opening date at this point, but several of the MMOC member organizations are excited to help advertise and commemorate the completion of this part of the Project.

Phase 1 Update:

- Tom Timmons reported that the contractor for Phase 1 maintenance, A&M Home Services, had been performing weekly litter clean-up in the Phase 1 area. They are delivering weekly maintenance logs, which Tom has forwarded to the MMOC (specifically to Matt Eddy).
- Anticipated activities include the installation of at least eight new trees and the development of a list of priorities by Terraink – both in March.
- Matt Eddy presented photos showing an area of apparently destabilized bank along Park Drive downstream of Brookline Ave. Tom Timmons is evaluating this concern.
- Exposed geocells in the area remain a concern and are continuing to be discussed.
- Leaf litter has accumulated in the “bays and headlands” areas near the peninsula, creating mudflats that are likely to be colonized by invasive species. This situation may be a consequence of the agreed-upon recommendation not to remove leaves from the slopes and having those leaves blow into the river. Management of these areas is an open question at this point.

MEPA Annual Update: Summary and Commenting Plan

- The MMOC’s feedback on the Draft Annual Update for 2014-2021 has been submitted to CDM Smith by way of Tom Timmons. Tom has a scheduled meeting with Mary Mancini at CDM Smith to discuss the revision process.

Subcommittee Reports:

- The Communications Subcommittee continues in its efforts to plan for the MMOC's annual meeting on April 26, 2023. Jack Schleifer urged the subcommittee to consider incorporating mechanisms for meaningful participation by the public in the meeting.
- The Water Quality Subcommittee has been assembling feedback on the Scope of Work document (prepared by CDM Smith) for post-construction water quality monitoring.
- The Landscape Maintenance Subcommittee is finalizing recommendations to Boston Parks regarding supplementary tree planting for Phase 1 for spring 2023.

MMOC Member Business:

- A quorum was not present, so approval of the draft minutes for January 11, 2023 was postponed to the next MMOC meeting.
- Elisabeth Cianciola gave a brief summary of the most recent meeting of the MMOC's Operations Subcommittee, whose work is focused on developing a process for approving organization membership applications.
- 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. Organization representatives are asked to distribute registration information to their mailing lists as soon as possible. A link to the registration site is available [here](#).

Upcoming MMOC Meetings:

- Weds, March 8, and Weds, April 12, 6:00 PM

Adjourned 7:00PM.