

MMOC Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023 ZOOM Meeting, 6:00-7:15pm
As Approved April 12, 2023
Minutes prepared by Matt Eddy, MMOC Staff

Member Attendees:

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

Other Attendees:

- Jack Schleifer, Caroline Reeves, Carroll Williamson.

Phase 2 Update:

- Matt Eddy presented photos as part of his monthly field report.
- Tom Brady reported that Charter is in the process of decommissioning most of its sediment handling bins at Agassiz Rd. The one remaining area to be dredged is Work Area 6 (Bay Bay Yard), but that is still pending approval from MWRA.
- There is no update regarding the oil discharge at Village Brook, but no odor complaints have been reported for some time. Tom Brady will ask MassDEP contacts for an update on the long-term expectation for the booms at this outfall and report to the MMOC.
- Brookline's planning for the dredging of Willow Pond and restoration of the Brookline side of Leverett Pond continue; Brookline DPW recently met with representatives of MEPA and NHESP (Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program). The excavation work is likely to commence in spring 2024.
 - Kelly communicated the MMOC's gratitude to Brookline DPW for undertaking this effort and asked Tom Brady if he'd be willing to educate the MMOC (or the Landscape Maintenance Subcommittee) about the details of the restoration effort. Tom replied favorably but asked that such a request be channeled through DPW Commissioner Erin Chute Gallentine.
- Elisabeth asked if there might be a reason for the delay in receipt of Environmental Monitor Reports recently. Tom B reported that there had been a stop-work order for a time related to negotiations around the Flow Restriction Control Structure; the stop-work order has now been lifted, although there may be less to report as dredging concludes.
- Parker noted that the amount of floating trash in Charlesgate was much reduced, probably due to the presence of the Project turbidity curtains. Could those remain after the work is complete? The consensus was that this would be difficult to achieve; these are occlusive barriers that would inhibit fish migration unless they were installed only around outfalls. Long-term deployment of barriers at outfalls would require additional permits and maintenance. A structure such as the Muddy Water Initiative's Watergoat may be a better option.

- Freddie inquired about the graffiti on the shipping container at Clemente Field adjacent to Work Area 7. Kelly agreed to follow up with contacts at Emmanuel to address that issue.

Carlton St Footbridge:

- Tom Brady reported that bridge construction is on schedule. Emphasis is now on landscape and pathway restoration. Brookline DPW is coordinating efforts with Charter to make sure landscaping activities there aren't in conflict with Project work at Work Area 6 (Back Bay Yard).
- Karen asked that plenty of advance notice be given for any possible opening celebration so as to avoid conflict with other events being planned by member organizations.

Phase 1 Update:

- Matt Eddy presented photos of the Phase 1 area as part of his monthly field report.
- Boston Parks and Recreation will plant eight new trees in the Phase 1 area beginning later this month. The Landscape Maintenance Subcommittee provided recommendations as to placement, species selection, and best practices for this effort, which BPRD has accepted. The MMOC thanks Tom Timmons and Boston City Arborist Max Ford-Diamond for helping make this happen.
 - Tom will provide additional information as to tree tagging protocols and dates of installation as they become available.
 - ENC will assist BPRD in watering the new trees beyond the guarantee period.
- Bank stability remains a concern in the Phase 1 area, evidenced in part by exposed geocells and slumping bank areas. CDM Smith will undertake a planning process for addressing these issues once more pressing issues are completed (MEPA annual Update, post-construction water quality monitoring scope of work).

Flow Restriction Control Structure (Cofferdam)

- Elton inquired whether the appearance of the river along the Riverway is being affected by the FRCS. Tom B indicated that it is.
- Tom Brady stated that Charter/USACE will begin dismantling the walkway above the FRCS and may begin cutting back the embankment sections of the cofferdam.
- USACE representatives will present to the Water Quality Subcommittee explaining the technical details related to partial/total removal of the FRCS. A date for this presentation is pending. Following that meeting, WQSC representatives will brief the entire MMOC.
 - Karen asked that Jack Schleifer be invited to the technical meeting.

MEPA Annual Update and USACE Inspection

- Technicians are taking bathymetry measurements in the Phase 1 area this week. Results should be available soon.
- CDM Smith intends to release the MEPA Annual Update for 2014-2021 (revised based on MMOC feedback) in the coming days, and Annual Update 2022 by the end of the month.
- The next USACE inspection of Phase 1 is scheduled for the week of April 17, 2023. It's not clear how many years the Phase 1 inspections will continue annually; they may occur less frequently in the future. USACE inspections of Phase 2 will commence once Project work is complete.

MMOC Member Business:

- Minutes for MMOC meetings for January 11 and February 8 were approved by unanimous vote (with abstentions from those who were not present for those meetings). Final copies of the minutes will be distributed to MMOC members and will be available on the MMOC website.
- Karen read the list of candidates for MMOC offices, including:
 - Kelly Brilliant for MMOC Chair
 - Kay Mathew for MMOC Vice-Chair
 - Parker James for MMOC Treasurer
 - Elisabeth Cianciola for MMOC Clerk
- Arleyn moved to approve the proposed slate of candidates, and Freddie seconded. MMOC members voted unanimously in favor of all candidates.
- Planning for the MMOC Annual Meeting continues. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023 from 6:00-8:30PM at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
 - Kelly described the speaking program and said that there will be capacity for up to 250 people but cautioned that we won't be able to accommodate walk-ins.
 - The Communications subcommittee continues to work to spread the word about the Annual Meeting through both electronic and paper-based formats. MMOC member organization representatives are asked to distribute registration information to their mailing lists as soon as possible. A link to the registration website is available [here](#).

Upcoming MMOC Meetings:

- Weds, April 12, and Weds, May 10, 6:00 PM

Adjourned 7:15PM.