**January 8, 2015 - Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes –** submitted 3/19/2015 by Jennifer Letourneau/revised May 18, 2015 by Sam Corda

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:
Janice Snow (Chair); Jennifer Letourneau; Deborah Masterson; Janet Burns; Claudia Thompson; Ann Roosevelt; Susan Agger; Jim Barton; Ted Pickering; Doug Brown; Dave Kaplan

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:
Paul Ryder

Water Department in Attendance:
Sam Corda; Tim MacDonald; Vin Falcione

City Manager's Office in Attendance:
Taha Jennings

Public in Attendance:
Joseph Poirier; Steve Perlmitter; Elizabeth Wylde; Betsy Meyer; John Sanzone; Dylan Russell; John Cisternino

Meeting Chair:
Meeting opened at 6:05PM
Meeting minutes: J. Letourneau/S. Corda

**Item 1: Meeting Minutes**
Moved to March 19, 2015 Agenda.

**Item 2: Meeting Focus - Proposed MA DCR Bike Path Segment to Replace Railroad Tracks running through the Reservation pine forest along Huron Avenue**

The city has purchased (May 2013), along with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) the abandoned railroad right of way (RRROW) from Concord Avenue to the Watertown line for the purpose of developing the RRROW into a multi-use pathway (MUP) with the intent of expanding and linking with the existing MUPs in Cambridge, Watertown and Arlington. The City purchased the section of the RRROW that was within the Fresh Pond Reservation. A portion is adjacent to an existing MUP running northerly from the Water Department entrance (not under discussion) and the other sections runs southerly from the Water Department entrance through the Reservation Pine Forest up to and under Huron Avenue. This section also has a parallel MUP which connects to Huron Avenue. The land within the Reservation was purchased with an existing easement to the DCR to allow for a MUP to be designed and constructed on it.

The discussion began with a review of the Master Plan and in particular it's Land Use Policy as they relate to the pine forest, outdoor lighting, existing conditions, open space restoration and watershed protection. The Water Department discussed drainage, topography and water quality issues to be addressed. The Conservation Commission

Director discussed soil "capping" issues relating* to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and the role of the Conservation Commission in reviewing the project. The President of the Water Board also discussed the jurisdiction of the Water Board.

The chair asked each member of the Advisory Board and subsequently the members of the public to comment on the RRROW being transformed into a MUP and its relation to the Board's role overseeing the Master Plan.
Comments and questions included proposed alternate surfaces to avoid using asphalt to cover the tracks within the Reservation, the nature of the Master Plan lighting restrictions, a preference for allowing the existing RR track to be used as a MUP, a preference for diverting the MUP or just the bike segment away from the Reservoir and pine forest to the Huron Avenue edge of the Reservation, safety concerns of a future multiuse path (MUP) running through the "pine forest" out of sight and below Huron Avenue when the Reservation is closed, and potential water quality impacts to Fresh Pond Reservoir.

Finally the Board raised questions as to City of Cambridge's relationship with DCR, the design, construction and funding status of the MUP, and the next steps in this discussion and the public process were raised.

The City Manager's representative to the Board, Taha Jennings, stated that converting this railway to a path is a regional priority. Taha agreed to continue the discussion with the Board at the March meeting.

**Public Comment (Agenda Item 4)**
Five of the seven members of the public present spoke in favor of the proposed pathway. Reasons noted were the desire for connections to existing multi-use paths (MUPs) and feelings that the MUP would be safer than biking on the road.

The Board voted to ask Taha Jennings to arrange for Bill Deignan, Transportation Program Manager from the Community Development Department to attend the March Advisory Board meeting to explain the status of the RRROW to MUP , to request that Taha Jennings be the coordinator of information to the FPAB relating to this project and to recommend that the City ask the DCR design firm to include alternate locations for the MUP to the existing RRROW section that runs below the Reservation pine forest. The vote was unanimous.

**Item 3: March 19, 2015 Preliminary Agenda**

Bill Deignan, CDD as guest to inform about DCR status, Monarch Butterflies, Fresh Pond Day w/remembrance to Chip Norton.

Ann Roosevelt moved and Doug Brown seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion