

November 21, 2024 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

(Hybrid Meeting – Zoom, In-person)

Submitted: David Kaplan – March 20, 2025

Approved: March 20, 2025

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), Sophia Emperador, Janet Burns, Jennifer Letourneau, Candace Young, Susan Agger, Kathryn Hess, David Kaplan, Ann Roosevelt, Adam Corbeil

Others in Attendance:

Emily Maynard, CWD

Meeting opened 6:05 PM

Meeting Minutes: D. Kaplan

Item 1: Review Agenda

No changes proposed.

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2024 Minutes: S. Emperador noted she was not present at the 9/19 meeting as documented in the draft minutes. J. Letourneau identified a correction to the date in Item 9. C. Young moved and S. Agger seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

Item 3: Maynard Ecology Center Report (S. Agger)

The presentation can be viewed and downloaded https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2024/2024_11_21_MEC_present_FPAB.pdf

S. Agger presented information on the Maynard Ecology Center (MEC) programming and its impact on Cambridge youth. MEC and the Fresh Pond classroom exemplifies the value of “place-based learning” where students return multiple times to a learning location. Current field trip experiences include units on Bird Sleuths, Rotting Logs, Weather, and Weathering and Erosion. During covid, students were bussed to the Charles River for all outdoor activities. S. Agger manages anywhere between 25 and 100 students at a time. She is pleased to be returning programming to the more controlled environment of Fresh Pond Reservation and the MEC classroom. All MEC programming supports in class science learning and is aligned with MA state science standards and practices.

S. Agger discussed other programming and activities developed in conjunction with Ranger Tim Puopolo involving trips to the Water Department laboratory and teaching pipetting skills to youth at the Cambridge Science Festival.

S. Agger noted the long history of the MEC as the Cambridge Schools field ecology lab as reported in area newspapers in 1976 and in 1975, the year the Center’s mobile classroom was dedicated to Thomas Maynard, a former Neville superintendent. The ecology center was established in 1971 and based in the Neville building until its renovation in 1975.

Item 4: Watershed Manager’s Report (D. Kaplan)

D. Kaplan gave an update on the Pine Forest Pilot. Four 20’x20’ fenced enclosures were installed surrounding restoration test plot locations. Test plot 1 will be fenced with no changes to soil or plantings within. Test plot 2 will be fenced with amended soils. Test plot 3 will be planted but not fenced. Test plot 4 will be fenced and planted only. Test plot 5 will be fenced, planted, and soils amended. Earthwise Aware

and volunteers will help document existing conditions in the spring. CWD is working with Duke Bitsko, Landscape Architect with Hatch to develop the planting plan.

D. Kaplan discussed previous unsuccessful attempts to sign the DCR multi-use path running through Fresh Pond Reservation messaging traveling with caution and the significance of this sensitive water supply area. Rangers Tim Puopolo and Omar Mejia haven't identified any significant user conflicts that warrant immediate signage. D. Kaplan recommended developing and implementing a more comprehensive signage plan as part of future Pine Forest Phase 1 perimeter roadway reconstruction. As the Water Department does not manage multi-use path usage, D. Kaplan will continue to reach out to DCR and City transportation staff to develop their interest in installing directional signage. S. Emperador mentioned that directional signage has been installed at the corner of Linear Park and Mass. Ave, and recommended reaching out to the Community Development Department for similar signage here.

Item 5: Draft Transition Zones: Addition to 2019 Sustainable Landscape Management Plan: Proposed Section 1.4 (J. Snow for Planting Committee)

J. Snow stated that a Planting Committee has been established to develop and review recommendations for this new section of the Sustainable Landscape Management Plan. Members include S. Emperador, J. Burns, J. Snow, D. Kaplan, C. Young, and V. Falcione (CWD). J. Snow explained the ecological significance of ecotones, and the buffer or transition zones between two habitat types. J. Letourneau cautioned running afoul of the open meeting law when members of the FPMPAB meet in subcommittee. S. Emperador stated that the number of members attending did not matter. Business needs to be publicly advertised. The caution was appreciated and noted.

D. Kaplan asked for clarification on the goal of the document. Is it to develop an aspirational approach and guidance for adding transition zones to identified areas, or will it be a mandated directive to install transition zones throughout the reservation? J. Snow stated it was intended as an educational tool to make people aware of the ecological significance of transition zones. A. Corbiel stated he wanted to better understand how this could potentially impact golf course programming. He suggested a walk-through in identified areas. He asked about the document's recommending leaving leaves in place surrounding trees planted in landscaped areas. J. Snow answered that the draft language is intended to identify the appropriate lawn maintenance practices near trees that do not negatively impact the tree's growth.

J. Letourneau motioned to further review the proposed section 1.4 in a separate, advertised meeting. D. Kaplan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: Status of 2020 Board Vote to Designate Joseph Harrington Way (A. Roosevelt)

A. Roosevelt stated that the vote passed under a different administration. This needs to be reviewed by the current City Manager. Mark Gallagher, Water Department Managing Director is exploring this with the Manager's Office.

Item 7: Preliminary Agenda for March 20, 2025

No changes proposed.

A. Roosevelt moved, and S. Agger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm.