

## **Mystic River Watershed Open Space Subcommittee Conference Call**

Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 10:00am-11:00pm

### Workgroup Attendees:

Ivey St. John (CWC), Joan Blaustein (MAPC), Nick Cohen (Tri-CAP), Karen Simpson (EPA), Caitlyn Whittle (EPA), EK Khalsa (MyRWA), Ellen Mass (Friends of Alewife Reservation), Melinda Alverado-Vega (NOAH)

### **“Walking Routes to the River” Project (Joan)**

- Joan has been working on a Walking Routes map, funded by transportation money from MAPC
- This map shows routes that anyone has mapped out, and looks to see what people are doing to bring people to the river.
- Trying to get other efforts tied in (such as Blue Back Heron Route and the Bike to the Sea effort), and increase awareness of the logo
- This work
  - concentrates on communities closest to the river
  - Identifies street crossings and necessary improvements
  - Serves as a connectivity resource
- Will bring the map to the Malden Trail openings
- EK and Joan will talk about spreading the use of the logo and creating additional neighborhood routes
  - MyRWA is close to unveiling the Mystic River Map and Guide on their website. This map highlights existing trails, mile markers, and history of the area.
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### **Malden River Trail Opening Event (Nick)**

- New trail developed by Combined Properties to be highlighted at an opening event on May 21 at 9:00am until 2pm (195 Canal Street, Malden)
- The event is an informational and health festival. There will be a community walk to River’s Edge around 11am.
- Serves as a good example where developers are involved with increasing access to the river and to highlight open space in Malden.
- There will be outreach tables – MAPC, MyRWA, Bike to the Sea will have tables. EPA can send 40-60 brochures

### **DCR Addition to Mission and Priorities**

- MBTA parcel east of Wellington T-Station on the Orange Line
- The idea is to connect DCR trails all the way to River’s Edge and beyond
- Beth Debski says that the Steering Committee could write a letter in support of these ongoing efforts
- This is the beginning of the work as representatives of the larger community where developers look at open space development as part of their plan
- This project is currently well underway with a lot of support (from MET, John Preotle and MBTA)

- More support is needed in order to ensure the funding of this project continues
- Ivey will draft a letter and will send to EK and Nick, and then to the Open Space Group
- Even though not all sites can be added as a priority site, the group agrees that this one should because there's not much more work to be done, and it can serve as a model site for the others.
- When this site goes into the second phase, past reconnaissance phase, it's important for the Steering Committee to get involved with the site design
- The group moved to add the Malden River site to the list of priority sites and to add this to the Steering Committee agenda. EK will present on this

### **Alewife Reservation – Tier 2 level involvement (Ellen)**

- Ellen would like the Alewife site to be considered as a site that the Steering Committee supports
- Ellen will draft up specific talking points regarding what is currently intended and what is desirable from each stakeholder involved
- We could develop a list of prospective areas to investigate on going forward work, and then develop projects from this list

### **Site on Chelsea Creek (Melinda)**

- The plan for Chelsea Creek is to create a necklace of foot bridges and raised boardwalks to connect to Revere
- There will be a bridge across the river near Clinton Ct. which connects Chelsea to Revere
- There is currently no funding for this project, but that is not critical at this point
- The MAPC supported a plan which recommends a foot bridge in this area
- Proposals for this project are out. These provide a description but no maps have been established yet
- Melinda will put together a page or 2 to sent to the Open Space group describing this project, and a map would be beneficial
- If this project is currently in the Revere or Chelsea Open Space plan, it could create leverage
- The group feels that this site is a good addition to the priority list. More information will be gathered and will present to the Steering Committee in May
- Roseann Bongiovanni of the Chelsea Collaborative has tried to push this effort through before and has had some push-back from DCR because they were wondering who was going to maintain it.

### **Next Steps**

- Update Mission and Priorities document
- EPA will send outreach brochures to the Malden event
- Joan will send a link to the new Walking Routes map
- Ellen will draft some talking points that clearly define FAR's needs for the Alewife Reservation area

- Ivey will draft a letter of support for the Wellington Greenway projects for others to review
- Group will present to Steering Committee on May 18, 2011