**Charles River Task Force on Equitable River Access**

**Kick Off Meeting**

**August 14th, 2025, Start Time: 12:00PM EDT**

**Meeting Minutes**

* **Welcome, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda**
  + Monika Roy – Present
  + Logan Bailey – Present
  + Derrick Neal – Absent
  + Kyle Vangel – Present
  + Ken Reeves – Present
  + Jeremy D. Battle – Absent
  + Galen Mook – Present
  + Laura Jasinski – Present
  + Angela DeSousa – Absent
  + Franziska "Fran" Amacher – Absent
  + Lawrence Adkins – Present
  + Sheila Headley-Burwell – Present
  + Zarriah Jackson – Absent
  + Valerie Bonds – Absent
  + Steven Miller – Present
  + Denise Haynes – Present
  + Thomas Leonard – Present
  + Jonathan Guzman – Present
* **Task Force Member Introductions**
* **Charles River Task Force (CRTF) Norms** 
  + Clarifying questions about Open Meeting Law – confirmation that this task force is going to meet in Open Meetings
  + Feedback that 3 meetings is not enough, that members of the public did not have enough input on process, agenda, etc.
    - Confirmation that there is no cap on meetings, 3 is the minimum
    - Emphasis on public hearings to additionally hear input from the public
  + Question about how task force members are expected to center ‘those on the frontline’
  + Flag about zoning changes and that task force members should be aware of zoning changes that may impact Cambridge residents.
    - Note post-meeting from task force co-chairs: Cambridge zoning changes are not within the jurisdiction or scope of the CRTF
  + Question about who is determined to be ‘stakeholders’?
    - Can anybody that requests access becomes a stakeholder?
    - Who are the currently identified stakeholders?
      * Where is it defined who they are and how do they become stakeholders?
    - Suggestion that this could be a discussion item during the next task force meeting
* **Metropolitan Area Planning Council Project Overview**
  + **Scope of Work**
  + **Review of Roles & Responsibilities**
  + **Timeline**
  + **Public Hearing Structure**
* **Questions and Feedback from the Task Force Members**
  + Suggested attending one of the Allston Civic. Association’s Monthly Meetings to provide an update on this task force and these goals.
  + Missing: historical context of Cambridge and Riverside neighborhood
    - Historic Black neighborhood on the river
    - The depth of the roots of this neighborhood at the river needs to be understood with a historical context
    - Hope that someone figures out how to build in a broader general understanding of this context and how we got here historically – which would help inform the overall process and end product
  + Timeline feels very tight.
  + The purpose of coming together came out of a lot of discussions in the Riverside neighborhood – none of that is really addressed here, and we have a lot of CRTF members on here that aren’t directly impacted.
  + What is the purpose of the CRTF? Is this to say “How can we collaborate better with DCR? Or is this to put tactical things on paper to try and resolve”
    - I.e. Head of the Charles, Youth and the river, doing clean up – things that are impactful for people who live within a mile of the river
  + Desire for the finale of this to have an outcome that makes sense to all of us
    - Riverside residents have been working on this for the last 3.5 years already
    - Residents of Riverside neighborhood have never been truly involved in the processes that affect the neighborhood – both with past decisions and the forming of this task force
    - Content is ‘off the rails’
    - Unrealistic deadline
    - This process needs to be rethought
    - Meetings need to be longer
  + Critique of chat as part of open meeting law – desire for chat to be embedded in process so folks can use chat
  + It would be helpful to reach out to the Cambridge Historical Commission to provide a historic overview
  + Emphasis from other participants to have someone from Riverside community to provide overview of history in area
  + Request to send documents in advance and make the documents more legible
  + Comment from chat:It is great to get this kick-off today but there are many questions to be shared at this time; but we have run out of time???
  + Comment from chat:Could someone please clarify -- It seems that the primary purpose of this Task Force is to shape the scope and methods of collecting public input, which will provide the main source of input for the shaping of a final report & recommendations.....rather than the primary job of this Task Force being to discuss and create what's included in that final report/recommendations. Is that correct?
  + Comment from chat:Without questioning your team's work there is large gap and PIRR (Principles Impacted Riverside Residences) has outstanding contributions.
* **Public Comments (as time is permissible)**
* **Adjourned** 
  + Monika Roy – Yes
  + Logan Bailey – Absent
  + Derrick Neal – Absent
  + Kyle Vangel – Yes
  + Ken Reeves – Yes
  + Jeremy D. Battle – Absent
  + Galen Mook – Yes
  + Laura Jasinski – Yes
  + Angela DeSousa – Absent
  + Franziska "Fran" Amacher – Absent
  + Lawrence Adkins – Yes, No
  + Sheila Headley-Burwell – Yes
  + Zarriah Jackson – Absent
  + Valerie Bonds – Absent
  + Steven Miller – Yes
  + Denise Haynes – Yes
  + Thomas Leonard –Yes
  + Jonathan Guzman– Yes