

Mystic River Watershed Open Space Subcommittee
Monday, October 4, 2010, 10:00 am
Groundwork Somerville
19 Properzi Way
Somerville, MA 02143

Workgroup Attendees: Joan Blaustein (MAPC), EK (MyWRA), Ellen Mass (Friends of Alewife Reservation), Nick Cohen (Tri-CAP), Jennifer Lawrence (Groundwork Somerville), Ivey St. John (CWC), Karen Simpson (EPA), Caitlyn Whittle (EPA) and Lynne Hamjian (EPA)

Agreement Points

- 5 Priority sites were chosen
 - o Chemical Lane/Monsanta Site
 - o GE Site in Everett (Rivergreen Technology Park)
 - o Draw Seven Park in Somerville
 - o Sandy Beach on Upper Mystic Lake
 - o DCR properties in Chelsea
- Individuals of subcommittee will open dialogue with developers of these priority sites to establish a positive relationship
- Open Space subcommittee members decided to use MAPC's Environmental Atlas as platform for maps

Discussion of Mission and Priorities

- Go through DCR Master Plan, pick items from there and understand specifics in the report
- Surface priority actions to the top
- Review DCR plan but expand to entire watershed, include important open space issues that are not included in the plan
- Open Space subcommittee members decided to use MAPC's Environmental Atlas as platform for maps

Next Steps/Updates

- Ellen Mass requests letters from individual NGO's in order for impact studies to be carries out at Alewife Reservation
- Chemical Lane/Monsanto site:
 - o Developer: Gary DiCicco
 - o EK has contact with the developer
 - o DiCicco is currently in court to get access from previous owner's attainment of the property
 - o Seems to be responsive to advocacy groups for support of his vision of the land.
 - This vision is not known, but we might be able to provide him with one
 - o We need to get in contact with the developer in order to pump him up about developing the land as green space

- Other priority sites?
 - o Draw 7 Park in Somerville
 - Important for fishing and EJ communities. DCR property
 - o DCR properties on Chelsea Creek
 - o Rivergreen Technology Park. GE Site in Everett (across from River's Edge)
 - o Shannon (Sandy) Beach on Upper Mystic Lake
 - Needs better facilities and capital funding
 - Support from Open Space Subcommittee to help with signage and funding opportunities
- What can non-profit advocates add to development of brownfields that developers can't?
 - o Access of funds?
 - o Collaboration for development money?
- Suggestion: Convene a summit in each city to discuss brownfields
 - o Should be the second step? Behind outreach to individuals?
 - Establish a relationship with developers/key players first
- Next meeting's agenda item: what does the Steering Committee bring to the table?
 - o Input to the community
 - o Support for current projects
 - o Current relationships
- Choosing 5 priority sites sounds reasonable because some of them have made substantial progress already
- There is a lack of green space in Chelsea and East Boston
- Not very much opportunity in Winchester and Woburn
- Upper Mystic has reasonable riverfront access already
- Larger grants are available from the EPA Brownfields Program to collaborations of communities
 - o The amount of money increases per parcel if more municipalities are involved
 - o Lynne will speak to Alan for more information
- There may be some EPA contractor money available (small amount)
 - o Lynne will look into this
- Boston Architectural College is looking for sites to design sustainable landscaping. They would like to work with UMASS Boston biologists during the planning stage
 - o Liability and access may be an issue to students for the Chemical Lane site
- Make initial contacts with developers to open up dialogue and establish a relationship and an action plan
 - o Talking points: goals of Open Space subcommittee
 - o Past successes
 - o Funding sources
 - o Establish that EPA is separate because it might scare them away. Their role is to assist in finding funding sources.

- Groundwork Lawrence received a \$2.5 million from (STATE??) for the Merrimack and the Spicket Rivers
 - o They are willing to show us their progress via site visits (Save for the spring)
- Get more information regarding brownfields money from Alan Peterson
- Use Charles River as a model
- Don't discount parts of the Mystic that are not included in the DCR Master Plan
- Request for Dan Driscoll present the DCR plan for Alewife Brook to the Steering Committee at the next meeting, as well as provide an update of DCR plan implementation

Follow-Up actions

- EK will contact Chemical Lane developer
- Ivey and Jen will contact folks associated with Draw 7
- Nick will open up dialogue for the GE site
- Patrick has already made progress on the Sandy Beach site
- Contact Chelsea Greenspace regarding DCR properties, try to get them to join.
- Jen will contact Groundwork Lawrence regarding a presentation to the Open Space committee
- Reconvene as a group before the next Steering Committee Meeting
- Lynne will contact Alan Peterson to see if she can get more information regarding the EPA Brownfields Grant
- Next meeting will be either November 9 (Monday) or November 4 (Thursday)
 - o Location is TBD
 - o Groundwork Lawrence will present their work
 - o Report outs by individuals who have contacted developers at each chosen priority site