

# WEST ROXBURY ~ ROSLINDALE BULLETIN

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The BMC coalition panel recently came to a Boston City Council hearing. Dr. Pace speaking at far left. Rob Koenig second from right.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Hearing on Shattuck a long one

**Richard Heath**  
Staff Reporter

Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson had her rebuttal to Rep. Samantha Montano's March 18 in-person public meeting on the Boston Medical Center (BMC) coalition plans for the Shattuck campus; on March 28 she filed a motion to hold a council hearing "to discuss the Shattuck proposal to promote racial equity."

The five-hour April 4 hearing was organized into three panels, the BMC coalition, the CoRes group opposition, and four advocates in support, followed by 11 individual speakers, mostly opposed.

This was the first public hear-

ing at which all sides could see and hear each other at the same time.

The Bulletin has reported at length since July 2023 about the BMC coalition plans, as well as opposition to them. The plans are now going through what seems to be significant revisions, although the basic outlines remain: Supportive housing for those in substance abuse recovery and another cluster for families with an array of wrap-around treatment services by coalition providers and three acres of land returned to Franklin Park.

The hearing concluded with a panel of four residents of Mattapan, Roxbury and Jamaica Plain who spoke in support.

The Boston Medical Center coalition was represented by five staff members including Dr. Christine Pace, opioid specialist, Katrina Martin, VP of community engagement, and Rob Koenig, Director of strategic programs; Pace and Koenig previously met with the opposition CoRes group and its allies at an in-person public meeting on Oct. 24.

Fernandes Anderson opened the hearing by giving the reason for it. "I've received a lot of opposition from my constituents, complaints about the BMC process, complaints about the size," she said, "Twelve emails in support and two hundred in opposi-

**Shattuck**

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One Roslindale house recently had an unscheduled conversion of its backyard to a duck pond, due to recent heavy rains.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Spring opens the floodgates in Boston

**Ariane Komyati**  
Staff Reporter

After a mild but dreary winter, spring is finally here – with more rain. Boston received a total of nine inches of rain in March, and an overall total of 21 inches of rain in 2024 (according to The Boston Globe <https://tinyurl.com/bdd4x5hr>).

The heavy downpours have caused flooding issues all over Boston, including the Parkway area.

District 5 City Councilor Enrique Pepén noted that the recent rain has been causing flooding problems in multiple Roslindale Parks, such as Healy and Fallon Field. "The flooding has been causing issues, specifically on the baseball diamonds," Pepén explained.

Residents who live near the Roslindale Wetlands have also been

**Parkway Flooding**

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## MHC keeps pushing for wins

**Susan Kryczka**  
Staff Reporter

The Mount Hope Canterbury Neighborhood Association (MHC) monthly meeting on Thursday, April 11 was dominated by neighborhood updates, activities, and some positive developments.

Lisa Beatman, MHC co-chair, had just finished attending a remote meeting with the Mayor's Office and other Boston neighborhood association leaders to discuss residential taxes. "We know that our property taxes have been going up...but downtown there are more vacant

buildings that are underutilized. So, there is less revenue, those values are dropping."

No decisions have been made, with the hope that any revenue loss on the commercial side would not cause residential property taxes to rise.

Boston Police Department (BPD) District E-18 Community Service Officer Paul Broderick's crime report showed positive data with no robbery, breaking and entry, or vandalism incidents to report for the last month. Crime was down 39 percent from Jan. 1 through April 11 over

last year. "The only crime that is up is domestic aggravated assaults," said Broderick.

Beatman announced the annual MHC Love Your Block – Pride in Our Neighborhood Clean Up Day scheduled for Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers should meet up at the intersection of Canterbury and Mount Hope streets for the clean-up, with the city providing rakes, gloves, bags, and T-shirts. "It is a fantastic opportunity to get out there. We clean up the

**MHC**

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MHC Co-founders Lisa Beatman, left, and Rick Yoder, right, at the recent neighborhood meeting.

PHOTO BY SUSAN KRYCZKA

# Parkway Flooding *continued from page 1*

affected by the rain. Last month, a rain storm created a small “pond” in one Roslindale resident’s backyard. Amy Joyce, a third-generation Roslindale native, shared the photos of the “pond” in her parents’ yard on social media. The house is located by the Irving School, which is surrounded by wetlands.

“My parents’ land has flooded for many years, usually when it rains or snows a lot. Since there are streams running underground, there’s no place for the water to go and the earth gets saturated. I am not sure why when the houses were developed there was not more consideration given to the underground streams,” said Joyce. “The past year or two have been the worst it’s ever been. The other week has been the most water they’ve had in their yard.”

Joyce and her parents reached out to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission about the flooding issues. She said she was lucky that her parents’ basement did not flood after the storm in late March that created the “pond” in their yard. However, after the Apr. 4 nor’easter, water began seeping in.

Joyce said she is concerned about the construction that is planned for the Washington Irving School and the amount of trees they plan to cut down. “Even if they plan to plant new trees it will take years for those to get large enough to help with erosion. I think with any new development, the water issue in Roslindale needs to be taken into serious consideration. It obviously was not when my parents’ house was built and now they are dealing with a major headache,” she said.

On the bright side, Joyce and her parents said they enjoy watching the geese and ducks swimming in the backyard pond.

Many community members have noticed that the rain is causing flooding issues at Millennium Park in West Roxbury. Mary Ellen McMahon, a West Roxbury resident, nature enthusiast and bird watcher, spends a lot of time at Millennium. She noted that the wooded paths at Millennium are filled with puddles, and the Charles River is up to the top stair at the boat ramp. “There is also a lot of water in the marshes. The high school boardwalk to the marsh gets totally flooded, and is a mess from fallen trees,” she said.

“I have been walking my dogs up there for a long time. I haven’t seen it so consistently flooded as in the past few years. On the other hand, in 2022, there was a drought and we got to walk on the river bed. A lot of nice shorebirds came. I had never seen that either.”

McMahon observed how the climate seems to go from one extreme to the other.

All of the rain has some Bostonians wondering if this wet weather is the new norm. Last summer, more than 20 inches of rain fell in Boston over a span of three months, making summer 2023 the second rainiest Boston summer on record. Winter 2023 was also a wash-out, with above-average rainfall and a snowfall deficit for Boston. The scarcity of snowfall in Boston (and the rest of the Northeast) can be attributed to numerous factors, including a high-pressure ridge over the East Coast, El Nino, and climate change.

The increased rain and flooding problems may also be attributed to climate change. Stacia Sheputa, the Director of Communications for Mayor Wu’s Office of Environment, explained that while individual weather events cannot solely be attributed to climate change, there’s growing scientific consensus that climate change is causing more frequent and intense extreme weather. This includes heavy rainfall and flooding.

“Addressing the dangers posed by flooding is a top priority for the city. Beyond immediate property damage and disruption to daily life, these

floods pose significant risks to public safety, infrastructure integrity, and economic stability. By proactively addressing these challenges, Boston is committed to safeguarding the well-being of its residents and the resilience of its communities,” explained Sheputa.

With comprehensive planning and infrastructure development, the City of Boston aims to bolster its resilience against the impacts of climate change. These strategies include enhancing stormwater management systems, implementing green infrastructure projects such as depaving and adding more absorbent green spaces, and promoting sustainable urban planning practices.

On April 27, there will be a presentation about preparing for flooding in West Roxbury at the West Roxbury Library from 2-4 PM. Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW), Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), and Mothers Out Front will share resources and discuss how to mitigate property flooding in West Roxbury and the surrounding areas. CREW, CRWA, and Mothers Out Front began discussing with each other the increased flooding in the neighborhood last February. Dira Johanif of the CRWA explained that West Roxbury is classified as a flood zone, and is experiencing heightened flooding in yards, basements, and roadways due to the frequent and intense rainstorms.

“This collaboration came out of CRWA’s regional Charles River Flood Model project that has been ongoing since 2021. The Flood Model is a regional framework for modeling flooding impacts and solutions in the Charles River watershed, looking past municipal boundaries as water and climate change impacts do

not stop at city borders. Stormwater specifically moves downhill in a watershed, so this project takes a look at different types of solutions across the watershed based on the available space and the benefits it could provide to multiple communities,” Johanif explained. CRWA partnered with CREW on the flood model project to engage with communities and inform residents about their work with municipalities to combat flooding in the area.

“A few more inches of rainfall across the watershed has the potential to increase the Charles River’s volume by millions of gallons during a heavy storm. In our highly urbanized watershed that is home to over a million people, that means homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, and more are vulnerable to flood damage,” Johanif stated. “Our current infrastructure was not built to manage the storms we are getting today and in the future with climate change. It’s important for communities to understand that and build support for projects that will make watershed communities more climate resilient.”

The Charles River Flood Model can be viewed at [crwa.org/watershed-model](http://crwa.org/watershed-model). Based on the Charles River Flood Model, the parts of West Roxbury that are prone to flooding include areas around the Charles River and Millennium Park.

Mothers Out Front, along with Speak for the Trees, will hold their annual sapling and seedling giveaway outside the library during the flooding presentation on Saturday, Apr. 27. For more information about Mothers Out Front and the “Let’s Prepare for West Roxbury Flooding” presentation, contact [info.ma.boston@mothersoutfront.org](mailto:info.ma.boston@mothersoutfront.org).



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## In-person Public Meeting

## Roslindale Square Squares + Streets

**APRIL**  
**24**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Visit the link below or scan the QR code to register:  
[bit.ly/rozziezoningskshp](https://bit.ly/rozziezoningskshp)



### Project Description:

The BPDA is leading a zoning workshop as part of the Squares + Streets planning and engagement process for Roslindale Square! At this workshop, community members will be introduced to zoning as a tool that guides development and will discuss both existing zoning in Roslindale Square and proposed Squares + Streets zoning through a community development mindset. The workshop will include an interactive, facilitated activity to think about how proposals for community development projects would have to interact with existing zoning regulations in Roslindale Square. Translation services for Spanish will be provided.

mail to: **Eileen Michaud**  
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**Location:**  
**Roslindale Community Center**  
6 Cummins Highway,  
Roslindale, MA 02131

## Feeling the Blues?

Research Volunteers Needed

If you or someone you know is...

- 50 years or older
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\*Payment will be provided for participation

