What is the CRA’s role in this project?

The CRA is acting as the developer in this project, to lend technical assistance and other capacity to help MFNH complete a project in order to ensure the strengthened provision of social services for the Port neighborhood and other Cambridge residents.

The CRA is an independent redevelopment authority. 4 members of our 5-person board of directors are appointed by the Cambridge City Manager, and one is appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts.

This project falls under our mission to expand equity, whereby we have been working more on projects that address City residents’ social service and affordable housing needs. We become involved in projects to fill gaps. We work on projects for which there are not other suitable or available partners, given a potential project’s unique scope.

Have you done a survey? Are there site or building plans?

The CRA will be conducting a basic site and building survey in coming weeks. Neither the CRA nor the MFNH have identified any other site or building plans to date.

How much would this project expect the new facility to connect to the existing historic house?

This will have to be determined in the design process, weighing restrictions due to the historic home’s status on the National Register of Historic Places and considering code issues. It might be ideal for staff (and perhaps also participants) to be able to move seamlessly from one to the other. However, code or National Register issues may make that legally or financially prohibitive.