

MINUTES

Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 @ 3:00 PM
Vicksburg Conference Room, MassDevelopment, 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens

Members Present: Robert Pontbriand and Alan Manoian (Ayer); Jim DeZutter, Bill Marshall and Peter Lowitt (Devens Enterprise Commission); Tim Bragan, Lucy Wallace, and Victor Normand (Harvard); Enrico Cappucci, Mike McGovern and Bryan Sawyer (Shirley); Robert Ruzzo, Jessica Strunkin and Edmund Starzec (MassDevelopment).

Others Present: Karen Davis (MassDevelopment), Chris Ryan (Harvard), Ruth Rhonemus (Ayer), Tim Hatch (Shirley), Cynthia Carter and Bill Duston (Devens)

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Victor Normand, co-chair.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the December 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept, seconded and approved.

Ayer IT/Website Discussion

Robert Pontbriand demonstrated progress on the website so far. He will send the current website hyperlink to committee members as well as a list of things, such as minutes, agendas, etc. needed for the site with a goal of potentially going live in February.

Jessica Strunkin noted that individual Committee member names should be added with Karen Davis listed as a point of contact for the committee.

Map Update

Ed Starzec reported that work is continuing with the various themes requested at prior meetings. Lucy Wallace requested that the online map be able to expand so one could zoom out and see where Devens falls within the surrounding town boundaries.

6th Stakeholder Outreach Plan Update

Jessica Strunkin recommended extending the timeline and asked for any outreach ideas other than the Devens newsletter and Chambers of Commerce Devens members. She mentioned that only four statements of interest have been turned in.

Brian Sawyer suggested extending the deadline and that a subcommittee meeting be scheduled by the end of January.

Continued Discussion of Draft Consultant RFQ

Peter Lowitt distributed a sample request for ideas for review as one possible method for seeking a consultant.

Mr. Pontbriand noted that the town administrators from Ayer, Harvard and Shirley will be meeting to discuss municipal finances and operations and expect to have something prepared for February's meeting.

Mr. Normand reviewed the genesis of the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee and the need for professionally gathered information. He noted the January 2019 request to MassDevelopment for

resources to fund a consultant. He pointed out that the Devens is no longer a vision, it's a reality and each stakeholder needs to identify what information their constituents will need, noting that the financial impact is going to be a big one. He feels as though the committee needs to lay out exactly what kind of information would be needed.

Lucy Wallace recommended a several step process, where this would be the first in a series of MOA's.

Mr. Starzec implied that the committee needs to identify the process from beginning to end. For example MOU Phase 1 could be to reach out to the communities, MOA Phase 2 could be the formation of a Steering Committee, MOA Phase 3 could be the RFQ. It would be broad steps.

Mr. Starzec and Bryan Sawyer volunteered to be on the MOA Outline Committee. There was discussion that followed with suggestions of items for an MOA such as identifying consensus; establishing rules to follow; determining what disposition means to each town; cost to maintain infrastructure; what relationship is needed with the Army, Job Corp or Federal Medical Center; Superfund Site/Army Clean up

Mr. Pontbriand noted that the questions in the MOA might be different for the different communities and that the three town administrators will work on the scope of municipal finance and operations for their community.

Ms. Wallace and Mr. Normand noted the need to identify costs and revenues. Mr. Normand asked if the Devens budget has already been submitted and if there was a placeholder for funding a consultant? Mr. Ruzzo stated that MassDevelopment is willing to pay a portion but the Committee should discuss how each stakeholder contributes. He also noted that the process would not stop if a specific amount is not in the Devens budget.

Mr. Lowitt suggested getting to the basics and leaving it open for creativity.

Mr. Starzec stated that he could attach questions from constituents to the RFI.

Mr. Ruzzo questioned if there were other base closures where there were multiple jurisdictions that didn't go all to a single town. He noted that he would ask the Roosevelt group to see if they have any BRAC comparison points similar to Devens.

New Business

Discussion of New Business was tabled to allow more time for public comment.

Items for the February 12th Meeting Agenda

- 6th Stakeholder Update
- Ayer IT/Website Discussion
- Town Administrator Finance Meeting Update
- Draft MOA Discussion
- Map Update

Public Comment

None

Adjourn: Mr. Normand adjourned the meeting at 3:51 PM