

## MINUTES

Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee  
June 9, 2021 @ 3:00 PM  
Video Conference via Zoom

**Members Present:** Alan Manoian, Robert Pontbriand (Ayer); Victor Normand (Harvard); Enrico Cappucci, Mike McGovern, Bryan Sawyer (Shirley); Peter Lowitt, Bill Marshall (Devens Enterprise Commission/DEC) Robert Carley, Edmund Starzec, Jessica Strunkin (MassDevelopment).

**Others Present:** Karen Davis (MassDevelopment); Paul Green (Harvard), Chris Ryan (Harvard); Neil Angus (DEC)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Jessica Strunkin, co-chair.

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept by Peter Lowitt, seconded by Robert Pontbriand and approved.

### **Meeting Format and Schedule:**

Mr. Pontbriand suggested that the next meeting should be in August due to summer schedules and asked for consideration for rotating the meeting location between the Stakeholders, when in-person meetings resume.

Mr. McGovern mentioned that he is fine with in-person meetings but that Shirley would have difficulty hosting hybrid virtual meetings. He also stated that he would be unable to attend in July.

Ms. Strunkin stated that she is in favor of rotating venues. In terms of the next meeting, she suggested the 6<sup>th</sup> stakeholder subcommittee could meet in July and engage in outreach to gauge the interest of the candidates and hopefully bring a recommendation for 6<sup>th</sup> stakeholder representatives to the full DJFC at their next meeting.

Mr. Normand agreed that the next meeting should tentatively be scheduled for August and suggested that if there were a lack of quorum it should be moved to September.

**Committee Members:** Ms. Strunkin introduced Robert Carley as MassDevelopment's representative replacing Robert Ruzzo.

### **Stakeholder Update:**

- **Ayer:** The three representatives from Ayer were reappointed. They are finalizing a local jurisdiction committee similar to Harvard's. The plan is that ideas from the local committee will be brought to the three DJFC representatives. The website hosting is ready to go. Ms. Strunkin suggested and Mr. Normand agreed that it was fine to get the website up and running and that the prior meeting minutes should be posted.
- **Devens Enterprise Commission:** Mr. Lowitt reported that the DEC has been busy permitting and they are looking forward to discussions going forward.
- **Harvard:** Mr. Normand stated that the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee (HDJC) has been meeting every month. They invited Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representatives Danillo Sena and Sheila Harrington to attend a meeting. Senator Eldridge and Rep. Sena attended. Rep. Harrington could not attend. Mr. Normand also recommended that the DJFC invite the state delegation to a future meeting.

- **Shirley:** Mr. McGovern stated that Shirley has discussed starting a Devens jurisdiction committee of their own. Their board will start recruiting but expects that finding volunteers will be challenging.
- **MassDevelopment:** Ms. Strunkin reported that MDFA has had internal discussions regarding Goals & Issues

## **MOA Review/Status and Next Steps**

### **Working Groups**

It was discussed that, other than the town of Harvard, there has been little response in getting volunteers representing all of the stakeholders. Mr. Normand stated that he believes there are three major areas of focus: Funding for Consultant Work, Definition of Consensus and Initial Definition of Goals and Issues. He also mentioned that any documents generated from the Harvard working groups would be shared with all the stakeholders and asked that any discussion or feedback on the materials be also shared.

Mr. Lowitt stated that regarding the funding proposal, he would be leery to ask MassDevelopment to pay for all the costs for hiring a consultant and stated that he would ask DEC to match Ayer, Harvard & Shirley's contribution and then would ask MassDevelopment to match the joint amount. Mr. Lowitt noted that MassDevelopment had incurred expended a significant amount of money during the last jurisdiction planning effort.

Ms. Strunkin stated that MassDevelopment is currently under new leadership and there is no provision to fully fund a consultant in the FY22 budget.

Mr. Pontbriand suggested vetting two of the Harvard documents at a time and getting feedback at a later meeting date. He stated that Ayer will coordinate a future meeting of the Town Administrators to discuss finances.

Mr. Starzec mentioned that the consensus document would be a good place to start reviewing and suggested discussing it and the report by Paul Green at the next meeting.

Ms. Strunkin recommended holding off on convening of the working groups until the 6<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder is in place.

### **New Business**

Mr. Cappucci praised Mr. Normand and the HDJC for the exceptional work they have done thus far. He also recommended rotating one of the co-chair positions between a representative from a different one of the three towns every three years, keeping the MassDevelopment position in place.

Mr. Sawyer mentioned that he is open to the idea of the chair rotating but believes the stakeholders are equally represented on the committee.

Ms. Strunkin pointed that there are no time lines or term limits currently.

Mr. Normand stated that he feels as though Mr. Cappucci is encouraging each town to have a voice but is not sure what is accomplished by changing the chair other than relieving the chair of a lot of work.

Mr. Cappucci stated that he believes it would get the other towns more involved in the process and reiterated that he wouldn't recommend changing the MassDevelopment co-chair position.

Mr. McGovern mentioned that since this item came under new business, as it was not on the agenda, it could not be voted on suggested that it should be tabled and put as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr. Normand asked Mr. Cappucci to draft a memo describing what he wants to accomplish. Mr. Cappucci agreed that he will forward the motion to the committee.

#### **Items for the next meeting agenda**

- **Vicksburg Square Rezoning:** Victor Normand raised whether rezoning Vicksburg Square should be considered prior to a jurisdiction decision. Mr. Lowitt mentioned that due to the housing crisis he feels there is a need to move sooner than later. Mr. Manoian said that if a decision isn't made soon, time will make the decision for us due to deterioration. He also offered to organize and conduct a tour of Vicksburg Square and the area to engage citizens and hopefully gain their interest in joining a committee. Ms. Strunkin stated she would work with Mr. Manoian regarding organizing the tour.
- **Devens Map:** Mr. Pontbriand mentioned that a map with layers was still needed for the website. Ms. Strunkin said she would regroup with the MassDevelopment engineering department to see where they are with the map they started working on. Mr. Angus mentioned that the DEC has a map with former town boundaries that he would email to Karen.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Subcommittee Report**
- **Discussion of the Two Consensus Documents Submitted by HDJC**
- **Administrators Funding**

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Victor Normand, seconded by Robert Pontbriand and the meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM.