

## MINUTES

Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 @ 3:00 PM  
Video Conference via Zoom

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

**Others Present:** Brian Breedan (Devens); Paul Green, Chris Ryan (Harvard); Mike Gibbons, Timothy Hatch (Shirley); Neil Argus (DEC); Cassandra McKenzie, Victoria Stratton (MassDevelopment).

**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 August 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### MOA Working Groups and Next Steps

Ms. Strunkin advised that no working groups – as called for in the MOA between the parties – have been formed yet, nor meetings held; there are few volunteers. A discussion of membership then ensued, and Mr. Normand noted that such a large group makes it necessary to divide into subgroups, committees, working groups, and the like to move things forward. He advised that the recent call for volunteers did not elicit anyone from the towns of Ayer or Shirley, but noted the importance of continuing the efforts made to date.

Mr. McGovern stated that the Town of Shirley and others are facing a number of challenges right now, and COVID-19 is putting everyone behind. He commented that Zoom meetings are challenging, at best, and it is difficult to dedicate time right now to this effort. With apologies, he suggested delaying the progress of this group and these meetings for, say, six months, to reassess. Ms. Livingston agreed that is hard to focus during Zoom meetings and, perhaps, some momentum has been lost. She wondered if there might be a way to continue these meetings – in person, in a large space, socially distant – and a brief discussion of logistics followed.

Ms. Wallace agreed with the importance of moving forward. She reminded everyone that 2032 is approaching rapidly. She said the intent of the MOA was to have one representative from each stakeholder on each working group, if possible; however, noting again that no one volunteered from two towns, she suggested that those who have volunteered should continue their efforts if there is a way, logistically, to make it possible. She advocated for in-person meetings, again, if logistically possible.

Mr. Normand objected to delaying the efforts of the Committee, noting that “work-arounds” for COVID-19 must be found. He said he did not think it would be appropriate for such a large group to meet in person, but he favored establishing smaller groups among current volunteers to continue efforts already begun, acknowledging that any work product that comes out of these groups will need the approval of the full Committee membership. He suggested this is a way to continue to move forward.

Ms. Strunkin said she could gauge who might be comfortable with the idea of conducting meetings in person, if logistically possible, but she cautioned against moving forward with working groups that do not have equal representation from all stakeholders. Mr. Ruzzo agreed, reiterating that two towns, with no volunteers, are unable to proceed. Calling attention to the already challenging task of recruiting volunteers, made even more difficult by the pandemic, Ms. Strunkin agreed that it is appropriate to pause this Committee for six months.

Accordingly, Mr. Lowitt asked for a voice vote to pause the activities of this Committee for six months and, upon motion seconded by Ms. Livingston, by a roll call of the Members on the videoconference (all but two of whom agreed; Mr. Normand and Ms. Wallace said no), the vote to pause the activities passed 13-2.

VOICE VOTED: that the Members of the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee shall pause the Committee's efforts and meetings for six months from this date, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at which time the bandwidth and ability to move forward with such meetings will be reassessed. If circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic should improve in the interim, then regular meetings of the Committee may resume.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM.