

MINUTES

Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.
Video Conference via Zoom

Members Present: Jannice Livingston, Alan Manoian (Ayer); Victor Normand, Lucy Wallace (Harvard); Bryan Sawyer (Shirley); Peter Lowitt, Bill Marshall (Devens Enterprise Commission (the “DEC”)); Robert Carley, Edmund Starzec, Jessica Strunkin (MassDevelopment). John Katter, Devens Representative-Resident; Odile Smith, Devens Representative-BMS.

Others Present: Bill Duston, Susan Gabriel (Devens); Paul Green, John Osborn, editor, *The Harvard Press* (Harvard); Karen Davis, Victoria Stratton (MassDevelopment); Neil Angus, DEC; Tim Hatch (Shirley)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Jessica Strunkin, co-chair.

Meeting Minutes Approval: The minutes of the November 10, 2021 meeting of the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee (“DJFC”) were reviewed. Ms. Wallace requested that the phrase at the beginning of the sentence that reads, “After a robust discussion about socializing the MOA beyond the DJFC, it was agreed ...” (p. 1) be stricken. Accordingly, Ms. Strunkin asked for a voice vote to approve the minutes, as amended, upon motion duly made and seconded by the Members on the videoconference, noting an abstention by Ms. Smith (who was not present for the November 10, 2021 meeting), and without opposition, it was

VOICE VOTED: that the Members of the DJFC approve the minutes of the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee meeting of November 10, 2021, as amended.

Stakeholder Updates:

Town of Ayer: Mr. Manoian reported that Ayer is making good progress putting together a jurisdiction committee of its own and next month he hopes to be able to identify three confirmed members to work with this group.

Town of Harvard: Mr. Normand reported that Harvard’s Jurisdiction Committee is close to finalizing its position paper regarding Vicksburg Square and copies will be provided to the members of this group. He advised that the DEC has prepared a Memo outlining its position on Vicksburg Square. Mr. Normand noted that Harvard will have a response to the DEC’s Memo. He reminded everyone that the original charge of the Harvard Jurisdiction Committee, at the directive of the Harvard Board of Selectmen, included studying Harvard resuming jurisdiction over its portion of Devens. He requested adding Vicksburg Square to the agenda for the next meeting.

Town of Shirley: Mr. Sawyer reported no significant updates. He said Shirley is working to populate a jurisdiction committee.

Devens Representatives: Mr. Katter also reported nothing significant, but he said he has spoken with many neighbors/residents and there is much interest in this group as well as concerns about how to best communicate what the DJFC is doing to the residents of Devens. Ms. Smith confirmed that BMS is interested in this topic and wishes to remain engaged with the community, but she had nothing further to add at this time.

Devens Enterprise Commission: Mr. Lowitt said the DEC looks forward to Harvard's response to its Memo. Mr. Marshall had nothing to add. Mr. Angus questioned the timeline for Harvard's response, and Mr. Normand indicated that he was hopeful of providing a copy of Harvard's position paper on Vicksburg Square to the members of the DJFC about a week before the next DJFC Committee meeting.

MassDevelopment: The Agency representatives made no comments at this time.

New Committee Updates:

Sixth Stakeholder: Mr. Katter noted the members of this group and others, including himself, Ms. Strunkin, Mr. Lowitt, Mr. Angus, and Ms. Davis met on November 24 and discussed, among other things, how Devens residents are inherently different from other residents of the towns (because they have no formal authority who appointed them to serve and to whom they must report), but that Devens residents, nevertheless, have full participation and representation on the DJFC. Communications were also discussed and it was noted that matters of importance regarding the DJFC can be placed on the agendas of other group meetings, such as the Devens Committee and the Devens Education Advisory Committee; information can be posted on the Devens Community Newsletter and other online venues. Mr. Angus advised that the DEC can post updates on its News & Information page, as well as the Devens Residents page.

Ms. Wallace asked if Ms. Davis has a contact list of all Devens residents and businesses for the purpose discussed above, and Ms. Strunkin advised that the wiser option would be get the DJFC website (to be hosted by the Town of Ayer) up and running, where minutes and other valuable information would be available. Ms. Wallace agreed it is important to have one location for all such information.

[Secretary's Note: Ms. Livingston joined the meeting by connecting with the videoconference during the above discussion, at 3:21 p.m.]

RFI/RFQ Committee: Ms. Wallace reported that the group has not met, and a brief discussion of availability followed. Ms. Strunkin said she would leave it for the group to organize.

New Business: Ms. Strunkin asked if there was any New Business to discuss, and there was none. She advised that MassDevelopment's offices will reopen officially to the public on January 3, with normal hours of operation. She wondered how people felt about conducting the next meeting of this group in person, and a discussion ensued. Ms. Strunkin understands that technology challenges are being addressed so that a hybrid model of both in person attendance and videoconferencing will be available. All in-person guests will be required to wear masks. Mr. Katter agreed it is a good idea to make available a hybrid option. Ms. Wallace said she would prefer to meet in person, but suggested keeping the hybrid option for January at least. Ms. Livingston agreed and suggested keeping the hybrid model

through the winter, in case inclement weather prohibits meeting in person. Mr. Carley advised that the legislation suspending certain Open Meeting procedure(s) expires in April and, unless extended, this body will be required to meet in person after the legislative sunset date.

Items for the Next Meeting Agenda: It was agreed to keep or add the following items to the Agenda for the next meeting of the group:

- Vicksburg Square
- Nature of February meeting (i.e., in person vs. hybrid)
- Town Administrator Update(s) and/or Stakeholder Update(s)
- Sixth Stakeholder – report on outreach to Devens Stakeholder Community
- Update from RFP Group

Mr. Katter suggested putting on the agenda the development of a timeline for coming to consensus. He wondered if it is appropriate to discuss setting a deadline and working backward from the objective. He asked if it would be appropriate to engage an urban planning consultant. Mr. Starzec suggested that the RFP Group should meet first to consider these matters and others and then bring questions or information to the larger group after that. Mr. Katter agreed this approach makes sense.

Public Comment: Ms. Gabriel commented that she is a new and curious Devens resident and she appreciated being invited to the meeting today. She requested that residents be kept apprised of these discussions. Ms. Strunkin said she would put Ms. Gabriel and Ms. Davis in contact with one another. Mr. Green wished to emphasize Mr. Katter’s valid point of working backward from the objective. He reminded everyone that legislation works on a two year cycle. When considering the goal of a particular year, one must also factor in other timelines involved. He suggested that a planning document would aid the Committee as to the pace with which it must conduct its work.

Adjourn: With no objections and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.