

# DEVENS JURISDICTION FRAMEWORK COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Victor Normand (Chair), Alan Manoian, Robert Pontbriand, Mike McGovern, Rich Maiore, Bill Marshall, Neil Angus, Tim Bragan, Logan Bries, Bryan Sawyer

**Absent:** Krysten Cullen, Marissa Rivera, Jannice Livingston (Vice Chair), John Katter

### ❖ Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand at 3:00 PM

### ❖ Meeting Minutes Approval

- Mr. Pontbriand made a motion to approve the February 14, 2024 Meeting minutes. Mr. Maiore seconded, motion passed (10-0) unanimous

### ❖ Votes

- Mr. McGovern requested to appoint Mr. Bries as a replacement committee member for Mr. Capucci
  - Mr. Bragan made a motion to accept Mr. Bries to the DJFC. Mr. Pontbriand seconded, motion passed (10-0) unanimous
- Mr. Bries thanked the board for appointing him

### ❖ Stakeholder Update

#### ➤ Town of Ayer

- Mr. Manoian advised that they had a great meeting with their Fire Chief. This meeting was regarding any changes that might take place if Ayer regained its old borders

#### ➤ Town of Harvard

- Mr. Normand advised they moved their meeting to the Monday after the DJFC meeting. This was due to the new update released by the Governor's office
- Mr. Normand also advised that Mr. Paul Green headed a committee to determine if any of the still available land on Devens should be reserved for municipal use (or School). Mr. Normand advised a study was done and this along with a letter was sent to the three school committees (Ayer, Shirley, and Harvard)

#### ➤ Town of Shirley

- No update

#### ➤ Devens Representatives

- No update

#### ➤ Devens Enterprise Commission

- Mr. Angus advised he provided an overview of the DEC to Devens residents so they know their role

- He also advised the presentation is listed on their website

❖ **MassDevelopment Update:** *if any*

- No update

❖ **New Business**

- New Bond Bill – lifting housing cap on Devens
  - Mr. McGovern advised that in light MassDevelopment continued absence and the Bond Bill released, he doesn't know why the Board is still meeting
    - Mr. McGovern advised that representatives from the Towns should try to set up a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor to see which direction the state is going.
    - Mr. Maiore agreed with Mr. McGovern and advised that the Committee is starting to feel like therapy rather than actually accomplishing anything
    - Mr. Bragan also agreed with Mr. McGovern. He advised that what the state just did proves that the decision for Devens won't be in the Towns hands. Mr. Bragan advised the state will make the ultimate decision
    - Mr. Angus advised that due to this decision he believes the committees role is even more important, and has a vital role
    - Mr. Normand advised he agrees with Mr. Angus. He stated that he believes determining Devens jurisdiction is very important. He followed this by stating that a meeting should be set up in order to get a better idea of the states plans
    - Mr. Pontbriand agree with Mr. McGovern and the others that the decision for Devens is in the states hand. He also agreed to the decision to set up a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor
    - Mr. Pontbriand advised that the Towns should determine what they want to get out of the meeting

❖ **Old Business**

- **Vicksburg Square Super Town Meeting Warrant Article update**
  - Mr. Normand advised he has received a confirmation of receipt from Mr. Rivera regarding Vicksburg Square, but has not received any updates yet
- **RFEI Vote**
  - Vote suspended due to Bond bill updates
- **Framework for Review of Permanent Government options Update**
  - Mr. Normand advised that that the documents presented to the committee has 5 different options for permanent governance of Devens
  - Mr. Normand also advised that there is a document to make 19 major decisions that determine each stakeholders responsibilities
  - Mr. Angus advised that the document has an introduction about the different options for the future of Devens

- Mr. Normand and Angus advised these documents are beneficial to residents along with a future consultant
- Mr. Normand requested that all stakeholders go back to their communities and come back with an idea of how their Town would handle Devens
- Mr. Bragan advised that some parts of the document are not applicable, such as (keeping with the status quo) and (Devens roles)
  - He advised that if Devens becomes its own town that they will make their own decisions; and if the State keeps control they will be making the decisions
- Mr. Normand advised that he agrees some answers are apparent, but advised he believes it is beneficial to complete the document
- Mr. Angus agreed this document will show areas needing more thought

#### ❖ **Public Remarks**

- Mr. Green advised he is also frustrated with the State decision, but advised that there are positive aspect to the Bond Bill
- He advised since the State made mention about leaving Vicksburg Square in the stakeholders hands, he found this promising about the continuing work of the committee
- He also advised that the DJFC is even more important now with this legislation on the verge of passing
- Mr. Normand wanted to know how much land is considered developable
  - Mr. Angus advised roughly 80 acres is considered available with developmental restrictions.

#### ❖ **Items for the Next Meeting Agenda**

- Create structure for Meeting with the Lieutenant Governor
- Framework document regarding administration
- Initial discussion on Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee education letter

#### ❖ **Adjourn**

- Mr. Bragan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pontbriand seconded, motion passed (10-0)

Minutes recorded and submitted by Logan Bries

Minutes reviewed & approved by the Committee on: *10APR24, Jannice Livingston, Vice Chair*