

DEVENS JURISDICTIONAL FRAMEWORK COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Attendance: Victor Normand (Chair), Jannice Livingston (Vice Chair), Alan Manoian, Robert Pontbriand, Mike McGovern, Rich Maiore, Bill Marshall, Neil Angus, John Katter, Tim Bragan

Absent: Ricco Capucci, Kristen Cullen, Bryan Sawyer, Marissa Rivera

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

Minutes: A motion was made by Tim Bragan and seconded by Rich Maiore to approve the minutes of December 13, 2023. The motion being made and seconded was approved by all members.

A motion was made by Tim Bragan and seconded by Rich Maiore to approve the minutes of January 10, 2024. The motion being made and seconded was approved by all members.

The Chair discussed the need to keep the minutes brief and outlined the need to follow state guidelines and not make them a verbatim transcript. All agreed with the statement.

Stakeholder Update:

Town of Ayer – Robert Pontbriand informed the group that the Ayer Devens Committee was meeting this evening and setting their schedule.

Town of Harvard – Victor Normand relayed to the committee that Harvard's Devens Committee met to discuss housing at Devens and reviewed the DJCF draft warrant article for a Super Town Meeting. Rich Maiore said Harvard had no objection to warrant.

Town of Shirley – Mike McGovern explained that there was nothing to report from Shirley and that Shirley will support Harvard, Ayer.

Devens Committee – John Katter mentioned the concerns of the Devens folks regarding rezoning and housing in Devens.

Devens Enterprise Commission – Neil Angus said that he had nothing to report.

Old Business:

RFEI update – Mike McGovern explained that it was ready to go and that we needed to have contact information and where to drop off the proposals finalized. He also asked how long does the committee want the document out before responses are due?

Robert Pontbriand said he would like to send it out electronically and Alan Manoian said it should be posted at the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and the American Planners Association (APA) websites.

Victor Normand said there was no objection to the stated process and document. Victor agreed to be the contact and answer questions. He said we would put this item on the March agenda to be voted on.

Vicksburg Square Super Town Meeting – Janice Kennedy said the first item we need to do away with and that there was consensus between Ayer and Shirley on this issue. John Katter said there should be no jurisdictional mention in the document and that their position on the zoning change and housing cap are unchanged. He said the first paragraph should be struck. Robert Pontbriand agreed as did Neil Angus. Rich Maiore moved to strike item number one. Seconded by Janice Livingston. Roll call vote showed all in agreement to strike the first bullet.

Victor Normand suggested we send it to MassDevelopment for their input. Rich Maiore agreed and said a date for a response was needed as well. It was suggested that April 2 be the date. Neil Angus said that Meg Delorier should be copied, Robert suggested the Board Chairs be copied as well and that it goes out as a draft with final approval to follow. Neil Angus suggested bringing on a consultant and that the committee take the lead. Robert Pontbriand said it should be finance by MassDevelopment. Victor Normand agreed to draft a letter and circulate it to the committee.

Framework and Permanent Government Options – Victor Normand explained there is a matrix of issues regarding the Framework Presentation which will be made at the next meeting. He said there are 19 items need to be addressed and four options (Devens become a Town, Devens land goes back to the three towns, the current status quo remains in place, and some other option). He did say both lists may grow. Rich Maiore suggested using the term Hybrid Option as opposed to using the term other.

New Business:

Robert Pontbriand explained that Senator Eldridge’s office told him that a One Stop grant may pose an opportunity for consulting services. Rich Maiore suggested inviting the Boston Globe Columnist to come out and see Devens.

Public Comment:

Victor Normand opened the Public Comment and explained that Public Comment needs to be related to this meeting and that people can make comments but to not expect a response. Paul Green from Harvard’s Devens Jurisdiction Committee suggested the committee consider resources of a professional mediator who practices principled negotiations.

Victor Normand said the next meeting is March 13, 2024, (Janice Livingston said she would not be in attendance) and that items on that agenda would be the following:

- Final Vote on RFEI
- Grant Opportunity
- Vicksburg Square Update
- Framework review and discussion

Meeting Adjourned: Victor Normand declare the meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Minutes reviewed & approved by the Committee on 13MAR24, Victor Normand, Chairman