

MINUTES

1st Meeting of the Devens Disposition Framework Committee

11:00 AM, Wednesday, September 4

Jackson Conference Room, MassDevelopment Offices, 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens

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

Others Present: Chris Ryan (Harvard), Tim Hatch (Shirley), Matthew Flokos (Harvard Press reporter)

Members Absent: Brian Sawyer and Enrico Cappucci (Shirley)

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Chris Ryan, the Harvard Town Planner.

Mr. Ryan called for nominations for the position of committee chair. Tim Bragan nominated Victor Normand. Jannice Livingston seconded the motion. Robert Ruzzo nominated Jessica Strunkin for the position. Ms. Livingston seconded this motion as well.

Mr. Ryan called for a vote. Mr. Ruzzo interrupted the voting to ask if there would be an opportunity for discussion and requested clarification regarding the role of Mr. Ryan at this meeting as well as the roles of the chair, vice chair and clerk positions.

Peter Lowitt suggested that a professional moderator might help the committee move forward in a productive way. Mr. Ruzzo suggested that appointing Mr. Normand and Ms. Strunkin as co-chairs could be a compromise solution.

It was moved that Mr. Ryan be appointed interim chair for this first meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Ryan tabled the discussion of officers for the time being.

Robert Pontbriand asked the committee to endorse certain policies consistent with those followed by local and state government entities, including an open meeting policy, advance public notice of meetings and agendas, the creation of meeting minutes, a regular meetings schedule, a three-officer structure (chair, vice chair and clerk), and that the committee would be subject to public records law.

Edmund Starzec was appointed to take minutes for this meeting. Mr. Ruzzo offered to provide administrative support for minute taking at future meetings held at Devens.

Mr. Ruzzo asked how this meeting was noticed. Mr. Pontbriand said that it was noticed in the Town Halls and MassDevelopment's Devens offices. Tim Hatch in the audience challenged this statement saying that the only notice he found for the meeting was on Harvard's website. Tim Bragan noted that the meeting only needs to be noted in one place in the three towns or online for the notice to be legal and that any other notices are considered courtesy copies.

The discussion returned to the election of officers. William Marshall noted that all members of the committee were not present to vote (two members of the Shirley delegation were absent). Mr. Ryan asked

Mike McGovern is it would be better to wait on electing officers until all members were present. Mr. McGovern was non-committal.

Ms. Livingston asked if the committee could set a regular meeting time moving forward. The consensus decision was 3:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month.

Mr. Pontbriand, noting concerns among the committee that the chair position could exercise undue authority over committee business by controlling the agenda, suggested that the entire committee set the agenda for the following meeting. Mr. Starzec supported this concept with the addition that some flexibility be provided to address new matters that may arise between meetings.

Mr. Marshall asked how Devens residents should be included in the process. Mr. Ryan suggested that this topic be added to next month's agenda. Ms. Wallace noted that the Devens residents are a relatively small group and that she wasn't sure she wanted to add them to the five parties specified in Chapter 498.

Mr. Pontbriand suggested an agenda for next month's meeting: 1) elect officers, 2) develop a charge for the committee and 3) discuss the concept of using a facilitator. Mr. Pontbriand further noted that all committee members will need to make a small "leap of faith" in the process.

Lucy Wallace asked that the committee attempt to elect officers at this meeting and moved that Mr. Normand chair the committee and that Ms. Strunkin serve as vice chair.

Jim DeZutter stated that all committee meetings should be at Devens going forward. Ms. Livingston supported this idea and Ms. Strunkin committed to make the room available.

Mr. McGovern suggested that the committee consider a co-chair arrangement again. Mr. Pontbriand moved that Mr. Normand and Ms. Strunkin co-chair the committee, that Ms. Livingston serve as vice chair and that Mr. McGovern serve as clerk with the assistance of MassDevelopment administrative staff for minute taking. Ms. Wallace withdrew her previous motion. Mr. Ruzzo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Pontbriand revised his previously-suggested agenda for the next meeting: 1) develop a charge for the committee and 2) discuss the concept of using a facilitator. Mr. Starzec was asked to pull together a list of potential facilitators in coordination with Paul Green of the Harvard-Devens Jurisdiction Committee. Mr. Starzec was also asked to distribute the sections of Chapter 498 relevant to disposition.

Mr. Bragan moved that Mr. Normand, Mr. Pontbriand and Mr. Starzec prepare a draft charge for the committee in advance of next month's meeting. The draft language should be circulated a week in advance. Mr. Lowitt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Normand asked that the committee strive to move forward in a collaborative fashion, despite a diversity of opinions and objectives. Ms. Strunkin supported that idea.

Mr. Marshall again asked about the inclusion of Devens residents and businesses in committee decision making. It was decided to table that discussion for a future meeting.

Mr. Pontbriand asked the committee about meeting length. The consensus was 90 minutes as a maximum with an hour being ideal.

Ms. Livingston asked the co-chairs to decide between themselves who would chair the next meeting.

Mr. Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM.