

**Devens Jurisdictional Framework Committee**

**Quarterly Meeting**  
**January 11, 2023, 3pm**

**Ayer Town Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Town of Ayer: Jannice Livingston (Vice-Chair)  
Robert Pontbriand  
Alan Manoian

Town of Harvard: Victor Normand (Chair)

Town of Shirley: Michael McGovern

Devens Enterprise Commission: Peter Lowitt  
Jim Dezutter  
Bill Marshall

Devens Community Representatives: John Katter  
Marissa Rivera

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Victor Normand (Chair)

Victor Normand stated that the Town of Ayer is the host for our meeting and I am going to turn it over to Jannice Livingston.

Jannice Livingston welcomed everyone to the Town of Ayer and stated what a pleasure it is after over two years to be meeting in person again.

**Approval of the October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Peter Lowitt and seconded by J. Katter to approve the meeting minutes from October 12, 2022. **Motion Passed (10-0).**

**Town of Ayer Update:**

Jannice Livingston recognized Alan Manoian for the Town of Ayer update.

Alan Manoian presented an overview of the proposed Ayer/Devens Envision 2033 Symposium to be held in Ayer on February 24 and 25. The two day Symposium will provide an overview of the past, present and future of Devens disposition from the Ayer perspective. Additionally, it will be the goal of the Symposium to further form Ayer's local committee. However, everyone is invited to attend.

Alan Manoian further stated that the Symposium will offer a tour of key locations on Devens of interest to Ayer to include Vicksburg Square; the Nashua Riverfront; the Auman Street Neighborhood and other areas. The Symposium will also involve attendees in becoming citizen planners with respect to Devens in terms of drawing their vision and plans for the future on maps.

John Katter stated that Alan does an excellent job and is looking forward to the event.

Jannice Livingston stated that there will be more outreach and information for the public regarding the Symposium in the near future.

#### **Town of Harvard Update:**

Victor Norman stated that the Harvard Committee has met for three years and presented its DRAFT Plan in October at which there were forty people in attendance and another fifty on Zoom. We have gathered financial information from MassDevelopment which includes their FY 2023 operating and capital budgets with the goal of developing a draft omnibus budget as well as an understanding of the tax base and operating costs. Devens seems financially viable. We will be sending an "outline of issues" to our Select Board with the goal of expanding to other stakeholders. He would be happy to share the financial information with everyone and Harvard looks forward to hosting the next quarterly meeting in April.

#### **Town of Shirley Update:**

Michael McGovern stated that there was not much to report. The Shirley Select Board will be having the issue of a Shirley Committee on their agenda. We are just not getting people or interest to get on the Shirley Committee. The Committee is formed but not populated yet. Hope to have more to report at the next meeting.

Jannice Livingston stated that she hopes that Shirley will attend the Symposium in Ayer.

#### **Devens Community Update:**

John Katter reported that they have formed an informal group of which there are currently nineteen members. He is joined today with Marissa Rivera. We are interested and focused on the future of governance for Devens residents and businesses. We have initiated a voter registration drive. We are actively looking at Chapter 498, the State Constitution, and other historic documents related to the issues of Devens and potential disposition. There have been dramatic changes in the Devens community.

Jannice Livingston stated that she hopes that many Devens residents will attend the Symposium in Ayer.

John Katter stated that he and Alan Manoian will be reaching out to the neighborhood.

### **Devens Enterprise Commission Update:**

Bill Marshall stated that Peter will give the update. He stated that Peter will be retiring in 2023 and will be greatly missed. Neil Angus will step up.

Peter Lowitt stated that in preparing the Annual Report for the DEC it included over 700,000 square feet in new development in 2022. Devens continues to grow in a sustainable manner and the future is very bright.

Marissa Rivera congratulated Peter on his upcoming retirement.

Jannice Livingston asked when Peter's planned retirement would be.

Peter Lowitt stated the middle of July 2023.

### **MassDevelopment Update:**

Jannice Livingston stated that MasDevelopment is not here today. They were invited and I sent an email inviting them.

Victor Normand stated that he invited Meg Deloire and she said "no."

Jannice Livingston raised the issue of the map of Devens. Where is the map? We need an up-to-date map with the boundary lines.

Peter Lowitt stated that he would see what he could do.

Jannice Livingston stated that we will continue to invite MassDevelopment with hopes that they will return.

### **New Business:**

Jannice Livingston brought up the issue of the website. Cindy Knox has retired and we need a new plan regarding the website. Two people should be assigned to update it and I will work with Cindy on a transition plan.

### **Public Input:**

Dennis Curran (Ayer Resident) asked if a definitive date could be established for when the map will be available.

Peter Lowitt stated that he will ask about it tomorrow and hopefully have something next week or by February 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest.

Jannice Livingston stated that the map should show federal and state lands and should be as detailed as possible.

Robert Pontbriand stated that the Committee should develop a synopsis of outstanding issues before it and discuss them further at the next meeting in Harvard.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jannice Livingston and seconded by John Katter to adjourn the meeting at 3:55pm. **Motion Passed (10-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Robert A. Pontbriand, Ayer Town Manager.

*Meeting minutes were approved on 12 April 2023 – Jannice Livingston, Vice Chair DJFC*