

DEVENS JURISDICTION FRAMEWORK COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held both virtually, via the Zoom video conferencing service, and in person at the Vicksburg Conference Room in the MassDevelopment offices at 33 Andrews Parkway on Devens. Members of the DJFC and members of the public may attend via either method.

Meeting Minutes

❖ Call to Order (Representative from Shirley, hosting today)

1. Mr. Victor Normand called the meeting to order and performed roll call
 - a. Meeting quorum was met
 - b. Mr. Normand handed over the meeting to the host community representative Bryan Sawyer

❖ Meeting Minutes Approval

- 1) None at this time

❖ Stakeholder Update

1) Town of Ayer

- a) Ms. Jannice Livingston advised that they have received application for their local committee
- b) She is hoping their first meeting will be in August

2) Town of Harvard

- a) Mr. Victor Normand advised that his committee continues to meet
- b) Mr. Normand advised his committee wanted to request that DJFC an amendment to 498 and move the planning date to 2024 or as soon as possible
- c) Mr. Normand advised this was being pushed by the actions of Senator Cronin
- d) He also provided an overview of previous agreements between MassDevelopment and DEC in regards to amendments to 498
- e) The above reason are why Harvard is requesting to move up the planning date

3) Town of Shirley

- a) Mr. Bryan Sawyer advised that Shirley has created a committee, but it has not added members yet

4) Devens Representatives

- a) Mr. John Katter advised that they continue to educate Devens residents about 498
- b) He advised there has been large strides in residents education on the 498

- c) Devens is considering creating a new committee of Devens only residents to work solely on jurisdiction issues

5) Devens Enterprise Commission

- a) Mr. Neil Angus advised Peter Lowitt is retiring from the Commission
- b) He also advised that Jim DeZutter has also resigned and is being replaced
- c) Mr. Peter Lowitt advised that they are providing a lot of information to Devens residents to help further residents education
- d) Mr. Peter Lowitt advised that he is in support or moving up the planning date, and is wanting to include rezoning Vicksburg Square

❖ MassDevelopment Update: *if any*

- 1) NA

❖ New Business

- 1) Mr. Normand gave an updated on the draft request for expressions of interest document
 - a) He advised that it has been a whole committee effort to develop this document
 - b) He also advised the hope to approve the whole document at the next meeting of the DJFC
- 2) Mr. Normand expressed how advancing the planning date would help create more activity from Mass Development
 - a) Mr. Sawyer confirmed with Mr. Normand that if the planning date was advance that the submission would still be three years from its start
 - b) Ms. Livingston wanted to know if a Super Town Meeting would be required to advise the plan, and if so would it bring more attention to 498
 - c) Through discussion many different aspects of advancing the planning would need to be discussed and decided on
 - d) Mr. Sawyer requested if moving forward that the committee makes sure there is enough time to complete all necessary steps
 - e) Mr. Normand advised that a full service consulting firm would help provide what would be required
 - f) Mr. Rich Maiori advised he doesn't support moving the date up without also rezoning Vicksburg square and funds for a consultant
 - g) Mr. Normand advised that a decision would need to be made on which community Vicksburg Square is located in, if not split
- 3) Ms. Livingston advised that advised Ayer is willing to permanently host future meetings, but requested each community take turns completing meeting minutes

❖ Public Remarks

- 1) Mr. Paul Green advised he is looking at a timeline of what still needs to be complete
 - a) Mr. Green also advised that the state could push out the end date if they wanted to

- b) He also advised he supplied a draft on how the committee should make decisions without bias
- c) He also advised the committee they should consider regionalizing the utilities provided
- 2) Mr. Lance Neilson advised of his thanks to the committee and disapproval for the industrial cap and Senator Cronin's actions
- 3) A resident wanted to know if previous consultant work will assist with current timeline

❖ **Items for the Next Meeting Agenda**

- 1) RFEI Vote
- 2) Advancing the Planning date
- 3) Vicksburg Square jurisdiction and zoning

❖ **Public Comment**

- 1) Mr. Mike Louse (sp) advised his committee is seeking to hold a Vicksburg Square brainstorm meeting to come up with a plan
- 2) Mr. Paul D. expressed his concern about how Vicksburg Square can be redeveloped due to its condition
- 3) Mr. Green advised that previous developer plans for Vicksburg Square were to make it all affordable rental housing to be able to make the project viable due to tax credits and other financial assistance

❖ **Adjourn**

Mr. Bryan Sawyer made a motion to adjourn. Neil Angus seconded. Motion passed unanimously 8-0

Meeting minutes approved on 11OCT23. Jannice Livingston, Vice-Chair DJFC