

MINUTES

Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee

Wednesday, April 21, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.

Video Conference via Zoom

Victor Normand, Co-Chair

Jannice Livingston, Vice Chair

Members Present: Jannice Livingston, Alan Manoian, Robert Pontbriand (Ayer); Tim Bragan, Victor Normand, Lucy Wallace (Harvard); Michael McGovern, Bryan Sawyer (Shirley); Peter Lowitt, Bill Marshall, Jim DeZutter (Devens Enterprise Commission (the “DEC”).

Members Absent: Enrico Capucci (Shirley); John Katter, Devens Representative-Resident, Paul Sellow, Devens Representative-Little Leaf Farms, Odile Smith, Devens Representative-BMS (Devens Stakeholder); Robert Carley, Edmund Starzec, Jessica Strunkin (MassDevelopment).

Guests Present: Paul Green (HDJC Member), Chris Ryan (Harvard Planner), Tim Hatch (Shirley resident).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Victor Normand, co-chair.

Meeting Minutes Approval: The committee approved minutes of the March 9, 2022 and April 13, 2022. The draft March 9 minutes were amended to show that Chris Ryan was present. The vote to approve each set of minutes was unanimous.

Review Letter to MassDevelopment: Victor opened the discussion by asking where we should send the letter. Members suggested that the DJFC send hard copies to MassDevelopment Chairman Mike Kennealy, to each of the individual MassDevelopment board members, to the Devens Enterprise Commission, to the Select Boards of Ayer, Harvard, and Shirley, and also, via email, to Dan Rivera, Jessica Strunkin, Representative Dan Sena, and Senator Jamie Eldridge. The consensus was to ask for a response from MassDevelopment prior to our next regularly scheduled meeting.

The consensus was that contacting Governor Baker was premature.

(Mike McGovern joins the meeting.)

Committee members discussed, at length, the optimal approach to register our concerns, open a dialogue with the senior managers at MassDevelopment, and get a timely response to our letter, in as forceful and civil manner as possible.

Overall, the consensus was to contact Chairman Kennealy first, to avoid blindsiding him in the event he was unaware of the actions taken by MassDevelopment staff. The precise method of contact was left to Chairman Normand. After Chairman Normand confirms that Mr. Kennealy has been contacted, he should contact the other parties.

Victor read an email he received from John Katter, who was unable to attend today's meeting. He said that he believes that the 3 towns should take the lead on contacting MassDevelopment.

The committee carefully reviewed the draft letter and approved several changes. The chairman asked for a roll call vote and all members present voted to approve the final version.

Items for Next Meeting Agenda: No items proposed. Next meeting May 11, 2022 at 3pm.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Adjourn: Lucy moved and Jim seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Attachments:

Approved version of the letter.

**Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee
33 Devens Parkway
Devens, MA 01434**

April 21, 2022

Mike Kennealy, Chairman
MassDevelopment
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairman Kennealy,

On April 6, 2022, the members of the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee (DJFC) received an email from Jessica Strunkin, Devens EVP (attached) informing us that MassDevelopment will no longer be participating in the work of the Committee. The DJFC has been meeting for more than two years on the very important matter of determining the future permanent government at Devens and we were surprised to learn now that the work of the committee was no longer considered part of the primary mission of MassDevelopment at Devens. The Framework Committee appreciates the opportunity to open a dialogue to discuss this development.

It will be difficult for the DJFC to move forward constructively without the involvement of all stakeholders. MassDevelopment's knowledge and expertise on all things Devens is unsurpassed and we are at a loss as to why MassDevelopment is not continuing to work with us in this planning process.

Finally, we ask your assistance in bringing the agency back to the table. CEO Dan Rivera has been generally unresponsive to requests for assistance by the DJFC and others. It is unfortunate that the matter has risen to this level, however, we feel strongly that our failure to act in this fashion would be contrary to the expectations of the communities we represent.

We look forward to your response in advance of our upcoming meeting on May 11, 2022.

Sincerely,

Victor Normand, Co-Chair
Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee

Approved by the following members of the DJFC voting at our meeting on April 21, 2022.

Alan Manoian	Town of Ayer
Jannice Livingston	Vice-Chair, DJFC
Robert Pontbriand	
Bill Marshall	Devens Enterprise Commission
Jim DeZutter	
Peter Lowitt	
Victor Normand	Town of Harvard
Lucy Wallace	
Tim Bragan	
Bryan Sawyer	Town of Shirley
Michael McGovern	

cc: MassDevelopment Board Members (Boston)
Dan Rivera, MassDevelopment (Boston)
Jessica Strunkin, MassDevelopment (Devens)
Representative Dan Sena, State House, Boston
Senator Jamie Eldridge, State House, Boston
William Marshall, Devens Enterprise Commission
Ayer Select Board
Harvard Select Board
Shirley Select Board
Members of the DJFC