

## MINUTES

### Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.

Video Conference via Zoom

Victor Normand, Chair

Jannice Livingston, Vice Chair

**Members Present:** Jannice Livingston, Robert Pontbriand (Ayer); Victor Normand, Tim Bragan (Harvard); Bryan Sawyer (Shirley); Peter Lowitt, Bill Marshall (Devens Enterprise Commission); John Katter (Devens Representative-Resident).

**Members Absent:** Alan Manoian (Ayer), Rich Maiore (Harvard), Enrico Cappucci, Michael McGovern (Shirley); Jim DeZutter (Devens Enterprise Commission); Odile Smith (Devens Representative-BMS), Paul Sellow (Devens Representative-Little Leaf Farms).

**Guests Present:** Susan Gabriel, Phil Fama (Devens residents), Neil Angus (DEC).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand, chair.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Peter asked that Neil Angus be added to the list of attendees in the July 13 minutes. Peter moved and Jannice seconded a motion to approve the amended minutes of July 13. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**MassDevelopment Update:** Victor reported that he sent an email to Mr. Rivera asking whether he would be sending a representative to this meeting, copying the representatives of the 3 towns. Victor said he has not received a response. Jannice reported that Mr. Rivera attended a Ayer Select Board meeting and that he promised to return to an Ayer Select Board meeting in September. She said she chastised him for not being a good neighbor. Robert pressed Mr. Rivera that MassDevelopment needs to return to this meeting and needs to fund the resumption of jurisdiction planning effort. Tim reported that the Select Board will invite Mr. Rivera to a Select Board meeting in September. and will raise the same two issues.

Victor relayed that he had received a letter from Ed Starzec that he was leaving MassDevelopment and called his departure unfortunate, as Ed had been actively involved in the planning effort.

**Review Draft Letter to Gubernatorial Candidates:** Prior to this meeting, Victor distributed a draft letter. Committee members suggested various edits to the draft letter to clarify various points. Victor apologized for sending the letter to several people who were not members of the DJFC and promised to followup with them and explain that it was an unapproved draft. After a short discussion, the committee unanimously approved sending the revised letter to each gubernatorial candidate. The letter invites each candidate to attend our next meeting on September 14. (The amended text of the letter, minus the email addresses of the candidates, is appended as an appendix to these minutes). Peter agreed to draw up a list of points to raise with the candidates. Victor noted that the next governor will appoint the Secretary of Housing and Development, who will then become the Chair of MassDevelopment, and hoped that we can obtain the name of a staff person that we can contact in the future.

**Stakeholder Updates:** Robert reported that Ayer is planning an effort to reach out to the public about their involvement with Devens. Victor reported that the Harvard-Devens Disposition Committee has selected mid-October for a public meeting to present the outline of our current position. The meeting will be held October 19 at the Hildreth Elementary School in Harvard. John volunteered to contact Karen Davis at MassDevelopment to have them resume posting this meeting in their weekly newsletter, and to post the upcoming Harvard public meeting. Bryan reported that Shirley is still working to populate their Devens committee. John reported that their committee continues to meet and has a goal of informing residents of what issues they need to be aware of, but not to tell them how to think about these issues. Many residents are actively engaged in learning about the future of Devens governance. Peter reported that the Massachusetts legislature has yet to pass the bill that raises the cap on commercial development at Devens. The DEC is working on backup plans in the event the legislation is delayed.

**Accept Resignation of Paul Sellew:** Mr. Sellew is willing to step aside to permit another resident to join the DJFC. Peter noted that a byproduct of this change would be that the balance of Devens representatives would shift from 2 business reps and 1 resident to 1 business rep and 2 residents. He noted that the DJFC group that proposed adding Devens representation had explicitly recommended 2 business reps and 1 resident rep. He'd like to see equal representation by both types of representatives. John agreed with Peter and suggested that a way forward would be for the size of the team for each of the 6 stakeholders be increased from 3 to 4. Jannice noted that residents and businesses were not originally included as a stakeholder and that the other stakeholders wanted them included. She believes that now that this committee is more active and so that should entice business reps to actively participate. Victor explained that the original proposal for stakeholder representation was that each town would appoint a resident, a select board member, and their town administrator. The hope was for 1 of the 3 DEC members would be from a business, and that 1 of the 3 slots for MassDevelopment would be a resident. Neither the DEC nor MassDevelopment used that approach and so the DJFC decided to add a 6th stakeholder. Victor, Bryan, Jessica, and Peter hammered out the composition of the 6th stakeholder committee. Victor spoke with Paul Sellew, who understood that his non-participation was an issue. Victor suggested that another approach would be for stakeholders to designate alternates for the time when a member is unable to attend, and further noted that anyone can participate in the meeting but only members have a vote. Finally, he also noted that the DJFC policy is that no important votes will be taken without all 6 stakeholders present. Bryan suggested retaining the current composition and continue allowing guests to participate. The consensus of the discussion was to find another business representative to replace Paul Sellew and to allow stakeholders to designate alternates for their individual members. Victor asked John to find an alternate, and that he will have the committee vote on the matter at a future meeting. Peter offered to work on the challenge of finding a business representative to replace Paul. Peter moved and Jannice seconded the motion to accept Paul Sellew's resignation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Plan DJFC Meeting with Devens Residents & Businesses:** Due to the unexpected absence of Alan, Robert asked to have discussion of this proposal held until the next meeting.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Items for Next Meeting Agenda:** Victor proposed, without objection, that if any gubernatorial candidates accept our invitation, our only business at the next meeting will be to meet with them.

**Public Comment:** Neil asked that each meeting review the status of the participation of MassDevelopment; Victor agreed to cover this status under an existing agenda item.

**Adjourn:** Jannice moved and Robert seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

**Appendix:** Letter to Massachusetts Gubernatorial Candidates

Maura Healy [email omitted]

Geoff Diehl [email omitted]

Chris Doughty [email omitted]

Dear Candidates,

On behalf of the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee (DJFC) I would like to invite you to our next Zoom meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 and 4:00 pm.

The DJFC was formed in 2019 to plan for the eventual disposition of the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone. The underlying towns of Ayer, Harvard, and Shirley as well as representatives from the Devens business and residential community and the Devens Enterprise Commission presently make up the committee.

The redevelopment of the former army base at Devens has been a great economic success for the three affected communities, the region, and the Commonwealth. Continuing that success beyond the redevelopment phase is the primary focus of the DJFC. The role of the next governor through its appointments to the MassDevelopment Board of Directors is critical to our work.

We would like to provide you with more information on Devens and the DJFC.

Regards,

Victor Normand, Co-Chair

[mobile phone number omitted]