

## MINUTES

### Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.

Video Conference via Zoom

Victor Normand, Chair

Jannice Livingston, Vice Chair

**Members Present:** Jannice Livingston, Robert Pontbriand (Ayer); Rich Maiore, Victor Normand (Harvard); Bryan Sawyer (Shirley); Jim DeZutter, Peter Lowitt, Beth Suedmeyer (Devens Enterprise Commission); John Katter (Devens Representative-Resident); Odile Smith (Devens Representative-BMS);

**Members Absent:** Alan Manoian (Ayer), Tim Bragan, Don Ludwig (Harvard); Enrico Cappucci, Michael McGovern (Shirley); Bill Marshall (Devens Enterprise Commission).

**Guests Present:** Marissa Rivera (Devens resident); Paul Green (Harvard Resident), Lorena Betts (aide to Danillo Sena, MA State Representative), John Osborn (Harvard Press).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand, chair at 3:01 pm.

**Agenda Change:** Jannice requested that the agenda be amended to add an item to discuss the schedule of meetings of the DJFC. The chair agreed to this request so no vote was required.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Peter moved to approve the minutes of February 9 2022, March 9 2022, and September 14 2022, and Jim seconded the motion. All of these minutes were unanimously approved without correction.

**Discussion with Dan Rivera:** Dan sent word that he was unable to attend this meeting. Victor noted that he invited Meg Delorier to attend in his place but she also did not attend. Members expressed disappointment that Dan and Meg could not attend today's meeting. Victor said that he would reach out ahead of time and invite them to attend future meetings.

**Consider Marissa Rivera as an Alternate Devens Resident Member and Kristen Cullen as a Devens Business Member:** Victor note that as an alternate member, Marissa would only vote when John Katter is absent. John strongly endorsed Marissa and noted that her grandfather served at Devens, that both of her parents were initial Devens residents and still reside here, and that Marissa herself is a Devens resident; she is vested in the community. Marissa said that she loved growing up here, living here, and building a family here, and desires to have a hand in developing the future of Devens. Peter added his endorsement. Jim DeZutter moved and Jannice seconded a motion to add Marissa Rivera as an alternate member to the DJFC. The vote to approve Marissa was unanimous in favor. Peter nominated Kristen Cullen, who is the Chief Information Officer for Commonwealth Fusion. to join the DJFC. She was unable to attend this meeting. Peter reports that she is excited to be joining this committee as a business representative. John moved to add Kristen as a full member of the DJFC and Jim seconded the motion. She will replace Paul Sellow. The vote to approve Kristen was unanimously in favor.

**Mass Development Board Meeting at Devens:** Victor noted that MassDevelopment will hold its board meeting at Devens tomorrow, which is an annual practice of MassDevelopment. Victor has drafted a

statement to be presented to the Board. Members reviewed the message was reviewed and requested no changes. (See the appendix to these minutes). Jannice offered to deliver the message to the board at its meeting. Robert moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the statement and its delivery. The motion carried unanimously.

**HDJC Public Meeting:** Victor announced that the Harvard-Devens Jurisdiction Committee would be holding a public meeting on October 19 to present a summary of its initial view on what Devens would look like if Harvard's area was restored to its historic boundaries. There are 9 aspects in the summary. The committee is looking for questions and comments on its summary. Everyone is invited to attend this public meeting. Victor asked that each stakeholder go through a similar exercise, as a technique to find common ground. He believes that there is a great deal of common ground, and that by asking each constituency "What do we want (for a future Devens)", the parties can make progress even without the participation of MassDevelopment. He said that this work will also simplify and streamline the future of a consulting firm that we expect to use to create detailed plans for the future of Devens. Victor will provide a report of the outcome of this public meeting at the next DJFC meeting.

**Meeting Schedule:** Jannice suggested that the DJFC meeting switch to a quarterly schedule, with the option to meet more frequently when necessary. This will give Ayer and Shirley a chance to catch up to Harvard's jurisdiction committee. She also proposed to rotate the meeting location, alphabetically: Ayer, Harvard, Shirley, DEC, and so on, and that the host chair the meeting. She further noted that budget and tax season means a higher workload for town officials for the next couple of months. Bryan agreed with Jannice and hoped that the extra time would benefit Shirley as well. Peter hoped that a lighter schedule would allow MassDevelopment to resume participation. Rich concurred with Jannice on meeting quarterly for now, with a potential option for every other month if warranted, and agreed with Peter's comment. Jannice recommended that the January meeting use a hybrid format; both in-person and online. Jannice moved that our next meeting be held in January in the Town of Ayer. Peter seconded the motion. Robert will check on how and where the meeting in Ayer will be posted to comply with the open meeting law. The committee unanimously approved the motion. Odile requested that she be able to remotely attend the meeting.

Peter also noted that the \$400K in the state bond bill had stalled out. Lorena Betts offered to check not the status of the bond bill. [Editor: The bill was not approved before the end of the session and thus died.]

Victor noted that Amanda Dew contacted Victor to say that she had watched the recording of our previous meeting. He and Jannice talked to Amanda on the phone a few days ago regarding the bond bill, and to opening up a line of communications to the executive office. Jannice appreciated that Amanda had watched our meeting.

**Items for Next Meeting Agenda:** Next meeting will be January 11 at 3pm in the Town of Ayer and online. No specific items proposed; the chair will determine.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

**Adjourn:** Peter and Robert moved and seconded to adjourn. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Appendix:** Statement of DJFC to the MassDevelopment Board of Directors.

*The Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee (DJFC) was formed at the request of MassDevelopment in 2019 to begin the planning process for the eventual return to permanent government at Devens. Until March of this year MassDevelopment was a full participant in the process along with representatives of the towns of Ayer, Harvard and Shirley, the Enterprise Commission and Devens residents and businesses. While MassDevelopment may not see planning for the return to permanent government as a priority at the present time, all of the other members of the DJFC do, and agree that MassDevelopment's renewed participation is critical.*

*Reaching consensus on the issue of local jurisdiction will take time and fashioning an orderly transition from project status to a community with political representation may take years as well. Though the redevelopment of Devens has been a remarkable success, this final phase of the project needs to be undertaken at this time. The commitment of this Board to the future of Devens is required now*