

**Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee**  
**Meeting Held using the Zoom Videoconferencing Facility**  
**Minutes of the September 3, 2020 Meeting**  
**Paul Green, Clerk**

## **Attendance**

**Members Present:** Jane Biering, Paul Green, Heather Knowles, Victor Normand, SusanMary Redinger, Lucy Wallace.

**Members Absent:** George Glazier, Kara Minar, Tim Myllykangas.

**Guests:** **Chris Ryan** (Town of Harvard), Ed Starzec (MassDevelopment Real Estate).

The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand at 9:00 am.

Victor introduced Jane Biering, who is replacing Erin McBee as the representative of the Planning Board. She said that her surname is pronounced "Beerling".

## **Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes of the meeting on July 2, 2020. No changes were requested. SusanMary moved to accept the minutes and Heather seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

## **Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee Update**

The draft Memorandum of Agreement was reviewed by the Framework Committee on August 12 via Zoom. The MOA describes the ground rules under which the members work with each other, and tees up the work of a consultant. Once the MOA is adopted, the next step will be to draft the scope of services for a consultant.

The Town of Ayer volunteered to create a web site for the committee, and the plan is to go live soon.

The committee members requested that MassDevelopment create maps that show the relationship of Devens to the towns. MassDevelopment is working on this request.

The Town of Shirley provided an update on the status of creating their committee.

Work continues to fill the committee membership positions that will represent the Devens residents and businesses. Two potential business representatives have been identified. Work continues on selecting someone to represent the residents.

Members are still completing three areas of the MOA. These are the definition of consensus, identification of specific goals and concerns of each of the six stakeholders, and the mechanism for how the work will be funded.

The committee will establish 3 working groups. (1) Funding, (2) Goals & Concerns, (3) Consensus mechanism. The Funding working group has members from each town, but only Harvard has volunteered to be on the other two committees. The work of the 2nd and 3rd committees has been suspending pending a decision on whether a representative from each town is needed on them.

Harvard is working to create a template for the Goals & Concerns statement by each stakeholder. These are not intended to replace or interfere with the existing reuse plan. These

are intended to be an initial statement, and can be amended as the work of the consultant progresses.

(Ed Starzec joins the meeting).

Victor and Lucy will look into whether they can distribute the draft MOA to the towns for their comment.

Victor asked that members of this committee share any thoughts they have about goals and concerns with he and Lucy.

Paul asked if the Framework Committee had discussed asking the voters (of the 3 towns) to ratify the process that the committee eventually adopts. He feels that asking for a vote will get the citizens engaged in the process. He feels that taking a vote will prevent backsliding, will get buy-in, and will get comments on the proposed process. Victor proposed that once the MOA has been ratified by the Framework Committee, the town-level working committees (e.g., the HDJC and its equivalent in Ayer and Shirley) could settle the question of how to have their town ratify it. The trick is to strike a balance between obtaining buy-in and keeping the process moving along. Paul reiterated that his concern is that if people don't buy into the process, they won't buy in to the outcome. He wants to have a milestone where the citizens and voters will ratify the process, and he pointed to the 2B effort in 2008 as an example where the process was not ratified by the voters, and he and others used that fact to object to the outcome. Heather concurred with Paul on this concern. Lucy expressed concern about delaying the process. Paul pointed out that we are here due to a vote of Town Meeting, and he felt strongly that we should return to Town Meeting to ratify the process. Victor closed the discussion by saying that we would return to this issue in our next meeting.

Victor defined "framework" as the "framework for permanent government at Devens". Once this is settled, the next step is planning the implementation. Heather, Ed, Paul and Chris noted that they thought that "framework" referred to the process; not to the permanent government structure itself. Ed said that he thought that the framework committee would define the process, get it endorsed, and then evolve into a larger planning committee. He is not wedded to any position but wants to avoid confusion. Victor concluded by saying that getting agreement on the MOA is a critical step.

Victor asked HDJC members to submit their idea of what "framework" means to him (alone) prior to the next meeting.

Chris pointed out that Zoom could be used in "webinar" mode to educate the town on matters relating to the Devens work.

Lucy noted that any member of the public can attend the Framework Committee meetings as they are held on Zoom, and that there is time on the agenda for public comment. Victor will find out where the Framework Committee meetings are posted. Paul said that they are not posted on the Harvard web pages.

## **Next Steps**

Nothing specific was discussed under this item.

## **Pending Task Assignments**

Members of the committee should continue to send write-ups of their meetings with department heads and committee chairs to Paul.

**Next Meeting**

Set for September 3, 2020.

**Adjournment**

Victor adjourned the meeting at 9:46 am.

**Attachment**

HDJC Interview Status as of June 27, 2020 (no change from last report)

**HDJC Interview Status as of June 27, 2020**  
**Paul Green, Clerk**

Listed below are the people who have outstanding reports still due, and the committees or commissions that they have volunteered to interview.

SusanMary Redinger            8 of 8 complete.

Erin McBee                      0 of 7 complete.

- Moderator
- Warner Free Lecture
- Emergency Program Director
- Fire Department
- Hazardous Waste Coordinator
- Land Stewardship Committee
- Sewer & Water Commission

Lucy Wallace                    8 of 10 complete.

- Finance Committee
- Veterans Agent

Kara Minar                      1 of 7 complete.

- Agricultural Advisory Comm
- Board of Health
- Burial Officer
- Cultural Council
- Police Department
- Public Works

George Glazier                0 of 4 complete.

- Ambulance Service
- Cemetery Commission
- Constable
- Elm Commission

Heather Knowles              4 of 5 complete.

- Animal Control Officer

Victor Normand                0 of 2 complete.

- Board of Assessors
- Personnel Board

Paul Green                      6 of 6 complete.

Tim Myllykangas              1 of 3 complete.

- Inspectional Services

- Town Counsel

Overall

60 identified committees or boards  
51 significant committees or boards  
9 committees removed from our list  
28 reports written

Completion:

28 / 52 or 54%