

**Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee
Meeting Held at 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens
Minutes of the November 1, 2018 Meeting
Paul Green, Clerk**

Attendance

Members Present: George Glazer, Paul Green, Heather Knowles, Erin McBee, Kara Minar, Tim Myllykangas, Victor Normand, SusanMary Redinger.

Members Absent: Lucy Wallace.

Guests: Chris Ryan (Town of Harvard), Bob Ruzzo (Mass Development)

Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand at 9:01 am.

Victor requested one correction to the minutes of our meeting on October 4. The correction was noted [Editor: and is included in the version of the minutes posted to the town web site]. SusanMary moved to approve the minutes and Tim seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Communication with Town Boards and Departments

Our letter has been distributed to all Town boards and committee chairpersons.

We reviewed the list of Town boards and committees that were not yet assigned to anyone our committee, and completed the task of assigning one of our members to each one. The final list of assignments is attached to these minutes.

We discussed the type of information that we were seeking from each board or committee. Chris Ryan has created an initial set of questions, which are very high level. The purpose of the questions is to get the discussion started. This is not the only chance that people will have to give us input. Our goal for now is to engage with the committees, find out if they have something important that they wish to let us know about, and make them comfortable talking with us. Eventually, we want to have a body of raw material that we can hand over to a consultant.

We decided to send out the initial letter, see what type of responses we get, and follow-up using our list of assignments. We will ask Julie Doucet to send out the letter. Victor asked SusanMary to collect the responses. He suggested getting an email address for this purpose from the town. Lucy, SusanMary, and Victor will craft the final version of the letter and send it.

Town Updates

The Town budget process is well underway. We are only seeking funding for soft costs (reproducing, mailing, etc.) at this time, and the responsibility for this lies with Lucy.

MassDevelopment Updates

Bob Ruzzo has been the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of MassDevelopment since December, 2017. He is visiting us today at the request of Lucy Wallace. Bob said that they are in the process of hiring a Senior Vice President for Devens. Members of our committee introduced themselves and briefly reviewed why this committee was formed and the history of Harvard's connection to Devens. Our desire is to be proactive in the process of returning

Devens to permanent local government. We want to closely work with Ayer and Shirley and MassDevelopment. The recently-written Master Plan for Harvard acknowledged that the task of planning the resumption of local government was beyond the capacity of local government. We will be seeking a multidisciplinary planning firm to help the towns with this task. Without question, the redevelopment activities will remain with MassDevelopment. The Harvard Master Plan identified that the future of the Devens Enterprise Commission and Devens Utilities will require extensive review and deliberation.

Bob said that the notion of 15 years of preparation is not foreign to him, and gave the example of the Big Dig, which required years of preparation. He explained that a request for funding from Harvard would only represent 1/3 of the towns. He offered his personal opinion that the decision to turn over Devens back to the towns would have two components: (1) whether the mission complete, and (2) the financial implications for the agency. It needs to be a smooth financial transition. He advised us to bear in mind that Harvard is only 1 of the 3 towns, and that we should bring the other towns along. He said that he thought that the process would take far longer, cost way more, and be way for difficult than we would ever imagine. It is way too soon to have a solution but it is not way too soon to formulate the questions. We need to be sensitive to the desires of the other towns.

Victor and the members of the committee assured Bob that we were fundamentally in agreement with his views. We understand that it will be a long planning and long implementation process. Our charge from our Selectmen is to engage the other two towns, and we have done that. We will keep them informed. We had a positive response from Ayer and Shirley. We have met with our state senator and state representative, and will be meeting with Sheila Harrington as well.

Bob added that in addition to the DEC and Devens Utilities, we should add Public Safety and the residents of Devens as a major concern [for our planning process]. It is the job of MassDevelopment to see that the Devens residents of aware, informed, and on board with the developments.

Victor noted that this effort is different from previous attempts to determine the future of Devens by asking each of the 3 towns to determine what is in their best interests. We know there will be conflicts. [This will eventually be the basis for negotiation.]

Protecting the financial interests of both the towns and MassDevelopment will be one of the challenges of the planning effort. We don't want a jarring transition.

Several of our committee members noted that Harvard and Devens had grown much closer over the years, thanks to the presence of both groups of children in the Harvard Public Schools. The awareness of the resources of Devens has greatly improved since the last vote in 2006.

Bob recommended that, as we prepare our "ask" for funding, we bear in mind that we have 15 years to go. We should explain and justify the duration of the ask. He said that sometimes MassDevelopment provides matching funds, and sometimes provides full funding. We should bear this in mind. Sometimes MassDevelopment administers Commonwealth funds.

Political Update

Victor met with Jen Benson. She is supportive of our work and asked that we stay in touch. He has a request into Sheila Harrington's office to meet with her.

Pending Task Assignments

Lucy will ensure that the Select Board's budget for FY20 will include sufficient funds to support printing and mailing a report from this committee to all residents.

Victor will contact the new head of Devens, once one has been appointed.

SusanMary will ask Julie for an email address for our committee from the Town.

Victor asked members of our committee to each think of 3 things that should be included in the "ask" to MassDevelopment, particularly things that might not be obvious. Explain what we are doing. Explain the compelling reasons why we are starting now. Explain why we need to do it in a comprehensive fashion.

Paul will post the next meeting for December 6, 2018 at 9am at Harvard Town Hall. [Editor: This has been done.]

Victor adjourned the meeting at 9:59 am.

Attachments

List of committee members assigned to talk to each Harvard board or committee.

<u>Elected Town Offices</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>HDJC Liaison</u>	
Library Trustees	Davida Bagatelle	SusanMary	
Moderator	Bill Barton	Erin McBee	
School Committee	Mary Traphagen	SusanMary	
Select Board	Lucy Wallace	Lucy	
Warner Free Lecture	Lisa Foley	Erin	
<u>Appointed Town Boards & Departments</u>			
Access to Services Liaison	none		
Agricultural Advisory Committee	Kerri Green	Kara	
Ambulance Service	Jason Cotting	George	
Animal Control Officer	Paul Willard	Heather	
Bare Hill Pond Watershed Committee	Bruce Leicher	Heather	
Board of Assessors	?		
Board of Health	Libby Levison	Kara	
Broadband Committee	Noyan Kinayman	Paul	
Burial Officer	Chief Denmark	Kara since she's meeting with him for police	
Cable Access Committee	Bill Johnson	SusanMary	
Capital Planning & Investment Committee	John Seeley & SusanMary Redinger	SusanMary	
Cemetery Commission	Bruce Dolimount	George	
Community Preservation Committee	Didi Chadran	Heather	
Conservation Commission	Don Ritchie	Heather	
Constable	Greg Newman	George	
Council on Aging	Beth Williams	Lucy	
Cultural Council	Lucy Clerkin & Anne Butterfield		
Devens Enterprise Commission Reps	Jim DeZutter & Duncan Chapman	Lucy	
Elderly & Disabled Taxation Aid Committee	Amy Haley, Treasurer	Lucy	
Elm Commission	Bill Calderwood	George	
Emergency Program Director	Chief Sicard	Erin	
Energy Advisory Committee	Brian Smith	SusanMary	
Fence Viewers	Ron Ricci, Leo Blair		
Finance Committee	Don Ludwig	Lucy	
Fire Department	Chief Sicard	Erin	
4th of July Committee	Anne Hentz	Paul	
Harbormaster	Bob O'Shea	Paul	
Hazardous Waste Coordinator	Chief Sicard	Erin	
Historical Commission	Pam Marston	Heather	
Housing @ Hildreth House	Rick Maiore		
Inspectional Services	Gabe Vellante	Tim	
Land Stewardship Committee			
Library Department	Mary Wilson	SusanMary	
MART Advisory Board	Tim Bragan		
MBTA Advisory Board	none		
Minuteman Home Corp Rep	Pam Frederick		
Montachusett Joint Transp. Committee	none		
MRPC	PB & SB Reps, as needed		
Montachusett Voc. Tech HS	none	SusanMary	
Municipal Affordable Housing Trust	Alice Von Loesecke	Paul	

Old Library Accessibility Committee	Lucy Wallace	Lucy	
Park & Recreation Commission	Wyona Lynch-McWhite	SusanMary	
Personnel Board	Victor Normand	Victor	
Planning Board	Erin McBee	Kara	
Police Department	Chief Denmark	Kara	
Public Works Department	Tim Kilhart	Kara	
Registrars of Voters	Marlene Kenney	Lucy	
Select Board's Office	Tim Bragan	Lucy	
Sewer & Water Commission	Cindy Russo	Erin	
Tree Warden	J.C. Ferguson	Paul	
Town Counsel	Mark Lanza	Tim	
Veteran's Agent	Mike Detillion	Lucy	
War Monument Restoration Committee	Jon Shoenberg	Paul	
Zoning Appeals Board	Chris Tracey	Lucy	
495 Metowest Partnership Rep	Duncan Chapman	Tim	