

Harvard-Devens Jurisdiction Committee
Meeting Held using the Zoom Videoconferencing Facility
Minutes of the June 2, 2022 Meeting
Paul Green, Clerk

Attendance

Members Present: Paul Green, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar, Tim Myllykangas, Victor Normand, SusanMary Redinger.

Members Absent: Richard Cabelus, George Glazier, Heather Knowles.

Guests: Jane Biering (Harvard resident), Jim DeZutter (Harvard resident and DEC board member), Lucy Wallace (Harvard resident), John Osborn (Harvard Press).

Victor Normand called the meeting to order at 10:11 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the May 5, 2022 meeting. SusanMary moved to approve them and Rich seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

DJFC Update

Victor called MassDevelopment to see if a response would be coming from them on the letter that the DJFC had sent to Dan Rivera. No response has been received as yet. He has invited Senator Eldridge and Representative Sena to the next DJFC meeting.

Alan Manoian of Ayer is working on a proposal for the DJFC to hold more meetings with Devens residents. Lucy has drafted a memo explaining “why now”; why it is important to start the planning process now. It will be discussed at the next DJFC meeting.

Devens Budgets

Tim, Richard, and Victor have not met during the past month. They hope to be able to meet with someone from MassDevelopment to answer some clarifying questions about the budget information which they received.

Plan Public Meeting on Harvard’s Summary Plan

Victor asked for comments from members on how we should proceed. Lucy suggested that we engage both with Devens and Harvard residents, as newer Harvard residents may not be familiar with Devens. She suggested we sponsor a tour of Devens and hold a meeting in a location where people can gather and talk about the plan. Kara recommended that we hold an in-person meeting at Devens. Victor proposed that we request assistance from the Devens Committee in organizing a meeting. Lucy offered to contact her sister, who serves on the Devens Committee. Paul suggested that we ask one of the industrial partners if they would host a community event in their facility.

Members suggested using multiple avenues for informing residents: Nextdoor, the Harvard Press, the PTO, the Harvard Town email broadcast, the COA newsletter, posters at the General Store, and other similar locations, and a “Consider This” piece for the Harvard press.

Fall will be busy with a town meeting and the October Flea Market. Jane and Lucy volunteered to help coordinate the meeting planning activity. The committee discussed potential dates, with a consensus of mid-September. We discussed holding two meetings; the first at Devens and the second in Harvard.

At this point, Victor had to leave for a prior commitment. He will distribute the “Why Now” memo to this committee by email. SusanMary assumed the role of meeting chairperson.

The members discussed what we hope to accomplish with public engagement meetings. Overall, we will present our draft Summary Plan for Harvard’s future engagement with Devens. Explaining the options and why we picked one over the other will require us to provide some context and background. We will need to explain the process for negotiating with the other parties, the method of ratifying a future agreement, and the overall timeline for the entire process. Generally speaking, we hope to give current residents a better understanding of the current status, open issues and available options. Regardless of which options are taken, big changes are coming to residents of Devens and the 3 towns over the next 10 or so years. We want residents to become familiar with the issues and comfortable discussing the topic with each other. Jane noted that we want educated feedback, and suggested that we use multiple methods of reaching out to people. Kara proposed inviting all area papers to attend the proposed meetings: e.g., Harvard Press, Fitchburg Sentinel, Worcester Telegram, and Boston Globe.

Lucy and Jane agreed to create a proposal for our next meeting, and the members agreed to pick a date or dates at our next meeting.

Other Business

Paul asked committee members to consider taking over his roles as Clerk. He prepares and posts the agendas and compiles the minutes. These roles could be fulfilled by two different people. He has been in this role since the committee started nearly 4 years ago in July, 2018 and is ready to pass the task on to someone else.

Public Comment

No public comment.

SusanMary adjourned the meeting at 10:59 am.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2022, at 10 AM, on Zoom.

Attachments

No attachments.