

Harvard/Devens Jurisdiction Committee

June 14, 2021

Amended for June 22, 2021

To the Select Board Report:

I will be addressing the Board, reporting on the activities of the Harvard/Devens Jurisdiction Committee (H/DJC) over the past six months.

Topics to be discussed include the development of draft position papers on these topics:

- Consensus

- Consultant Funding

- Goals and Issues

Copies of these papers are included with this report and were submitted to the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee for consideration as part of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the parties. The final version of the MoA will come before the Select Board for review and ratification.

Additionally, the H/DJC met with Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Dan Sena recently and provided them with an update on the work of the Committee.

At its May meeting the H/DJC discussed the matter of a proposed zoning change from commercial to residential use for Vicksburg Square, and its advisability before a determination on permanent government has been made.

I will be prepared to discuss these items in detail at the pleasure of the Board.

Submitted on behalf of the Harvard/Devens Jurisdiction Committee by:

Victor Normand, Chair

Harvard/Devens Jurisdiction Committee

June 14, 2021

Amended for June 22, 2021

The memo above was prepared prior to the June 9, 2021 meeting of the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee. What follows is a summary of that meeting.

All parties were represented at that public meeting which was intended to prepare for more substantive meetings to follow. Additionally, each stakeholder was asked to comment on related activities engaged in over the past six months. Except for Harvard's work on the open MoA items, none of the others had made any progress except for MassDevelopment.

Jessica Strunkin, Executive VP for Devens, announced that an internal group had met and she was charged with informing the DJFC that MassDevelopment had no budget for funding consultants and no plans to provide funding.

Subsequent to the meeting, I spoke to Ms Strunkin seeking clarification of MassDevelopment's position. I informed her that the funding position was in complete contradiction to the written communication received by the Town of Harvard in February on 2019. Her only response was that a new administration was now in place at MassDevelopment.

The consultants to Harvard's most recent Master Plan, Burns/McKinney, clearly established that the Town's ability to make an informed decision on its role in the eventual form of permanent government at Devens, required extensive support from qualified consultants. Without funding from the Devens project, the value of the DJFC is questionable.

At a minimum, Mass Development's CEO, Dan Rivera, should be asked to respond to the HDJC's position paper on Funding.