

Devens Citizens Advisory Committee

33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, MA 01434

Meeting Notes
December 7, 2005

Devens Committee Members Present:

Mike Boucher, Bob Eisengrein, Phil Crosby and Tom Kinch

Other Present:

Mike Donabedian, Ken Ashe, Kate Clisham

Call to order: 7:10 pm

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes approved: October 24, 2005 and November 7, 2005

Boards of Selectmen

Harvard

Mike gave a brief overview of the roundtable discussion with the Harvard board. The session was strictly informational and non binding. Members of each board gave their views on Devens and whether it should become a town through Disposition. Tom thought the point that Harvard made was scenario 1B is not an alternative; they indicated it is unanimous between Ayer and Harvard that 1B is out. Phil did not understand how one of the stakeholders could take a scenario off the table. Bob said it will come up at the DDEB meeting tomorrow; Phil said he thinks it should be the DDEB to say 1B will be removed. No official action was taken by Harvard or the Devens Committee the next step is to have another roundtable at this location.

Ayer

Mike also spoke to Paul Bresnahan from Ayer about holding a similar meeting with the Ayer Board of Selectmen. Paul indicated that he'd like to get more Devens issues on their agenda; Faye Morrison and Frank Maxant were positive about holding a meeting.

Shirley

Mike was invited to the Shirley Public Forum on Disposition-EBZ-he presented the finance aspect.

DDEB Updates

- A. Coordinating Committee: looking to towns to specify their needs.
- B. Governance Committee: 3rd Draft MOU in process; generic form w/ detail to be added once scenario is selected; will be presented to DDEB tomorrow.
- C. Finance Committee: Need towns to specify their needs; figure budgets and sustainability. Will go forward based on scenarios.
- D. Housing & Transportation: Going through the final draft report; significant discussion, need to keep talking.

- E. Land Use & Open Space: Close to wrapping up final report; Sue Casey will be submitting letter to look at sites for a school.
- F. Communications Committee: Devens Disposition site is no longer; Phil registered www.devenscommittee.org and he will put a wealth of information on the site, broken down by sections. Mike suggested contacting Worth Robbins about the information from the old web site. Tom thought it would be a good idea to formalize communications to Devens Residents. Mike suggested this become an action item. Phil said we need interested people with expertise to help get it started. Motion made by Tom Kinch-To adopt a communication strategy and use tools such as a website for a vehicle to communicate to the community. The motion passed unanimously. Mike cautioned that we be as efficient as possible with the limited resources available.

DDEB Meeting

Meeting scheduled for 12/9 at 4pm.

Public Comment

Mike Donabedian asked about the Treatment Plant and if that had been considered in the process. The committee told him that is being looked into by the Utilities Commission. They have had ongoing discussions and their next meeting is planned for 12/15/05. Mike also asked if a cemetery was considered as well as places of worship and a school.

Other Business:

- Tom questioned if we can value our assets by parcel. Mike said a good portion of that has been addressed in the financial model, except for utilities; the report should be out in about 3-4 weeks.
- Phil has drafted a “Disposition and Closure Process”. He indicated he thinks the process has worked pretty well to this point. We will soon reach a point where it will become counterproductive. He is still not clear what the based interest is for all 6 stakeholders. We need to get to a point where people are willing to put it on the table. We’ve spent a number of months talking about parcels and not in context of who wants what. He thinks the Coordinating Committee is running the process by default at this point. The DDEB doesn’t see this as an urgent matter. Tom thought that when this committee negotiated the housing number it would be the catalyst to get other things started. Phil has a good idea but maybe it’s premature. Phil thinks we need to be ready to do this when the reports are out-the DDEB needs to be the one to do it. Bob thinks it’s appropriate to bring it to the DDEB as an approach that we think is important when it’s needed. Present it as a point to consider. Mike suggested changing the name to “Disposition Closure Process” and not specify a timeframe along with it. It should be presented as a DRAFT item in new business at the DDEB meeting. He asked Phil if he was looking for this board to submit it together or Phil as an individual. Phil indicated he would not present it if this board was not comfortable with the idea. Bob made a motion to have it presented at the DDEB meeting and it passed unanimously.

- Tom asked about the MOU and who was putting it forward. Mike said the original document came from Bill Burke. They are on the 2nd or 3rd draft which will be distributed to the DDEB in DRAFT form. It is an instrument or tool to help focus the process; essentially it gets you to the scenario.
- Mike indicated there is an open position on the Devens Enterprise Commission. Tom thought it should be tabled at this time; however the opportunity exists to get another resident on the DEC. It will be put on our next Agenda.

Mike wished everyone good luck in the upcoming Devens Committee Election next Tuesday before closing the meeting.

Next Meeting:
No Date SET

Adjourned at 8:25pm