

Devens Economic Analysis Team ("DEAT")

Minutes of September 1, 2010 Meeting

7:00 - 8:30PM

Lower Meeting Room, Old Library

Orville Dodson, Clerk

Members Present: Orville Dodson, Duncan ("Sandy") Chapman, Steve Finnegan, Paul Green.
Members Absent: Victor Normand.

Steve Finnegan called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Steve ran through the agenda for the meeting.

Members present decided to defer the approval of the minutes of the August 13 meeting until the next meeting when all members will be present.

A discussion of what levels and forms of communication between DEAT members trigger the new state Open Meeting Law took place and Orville said that he would contact the state office handling the law for clarification. He will also ask about how sub-committees should be treated under the law.

Steve introduced Jean Russel to the members as a possible new DEAT member. She has been a Devens resident since 2006.

Steve asked all members to prepare his/her own outline for the final report. As members complete their outlines, they will send them to the Orville and they will be discussed in future meetings. Steve then showed the members the large binder of Devens news and documents he has collected since 2007. He presented all members with a CD created by him containing much of the content of the binder and some additional documents. Steve plans to work with Julie about putting this CD online on the town website, probably somewhere within the DEAT web page.

Paul indicated his interest in handling the topic of "utilities" in the DEAT study. An informal discussion of the present utilities situation at Devens ensued. Devens inherited a full standalone utilities infrastructure (electric, gas, water, sewage) from the Army and has maintained it. It is a revenue producing entity and might be serving some neighboring town(s). Duncan mentioned that there are commercial developments (and BRAC's) in Massachusetts that straddle town boundaries and we can learn from them.

Steve then suggested that the DEAT study and report on the impacts of zoning changes (such as Vicksburg Square) at Devens. It could be another top-level topic in the final report.

Steve also suggested that the DEAT study the various possibilities of what Vicksburg Square might develop into. If it's entirely unclear what the possibilities for Vicksburg will be, we could advise in the final report that the DEAT continue on on the topic and report in the future. Paul cautioned that the DEAT not continue in existence for too long – he mentioned volunteer burnout.

Paul then moved that the meeting adjourn. Steve seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.