

# Devens Economic Analysis Team (“DEAT”)

Minutes of September 25, 2015 Meeting

8:00 AM

Hildreth House

Paul Green, Secretary

Members Present: Steve Finnegan, Paul Green, Noyan Kinayman, Victor Normand, and Christopher Roy

Members Absent: None.

Guest: Lucy Wallace

Victor Normand, Chairman of DEAT, call the meeting to order at 8:10am.

## Old Business

### Approval of Minutes

We did not remember to approve the minutes of the September 18 meeting.

### Annual Report

Victor distributed updated copies of the revised, draft final report and the committee reviewed it.

We discussed which topics this year’s annual report should focus on. The consensus of the committee was that we should stick to statements that can be backed-up with facts, and not speculate or give advice about policy issues.

Paul thought that it is important to take the time do some community education on our conclusions. It will take time for the effects of the research and modeling that we have done to work its way into the general knowledge of the community.

Victor said that everything in this year’s report is fact-based.

Lucy said that the Selectmen have invited the DEAT to present at the Selectmen’s meeting on October 20. In addition, on October 29, there will be a public meeting on the Master Plan. She thinks that the Master Plan meeting would provide a second opportunity to talk about our findings, since much of the work in the Master Plan deals with Devens. She suggested that we have copies of our report ready to hand out on October 29.

Steve said that he has some ideas about the conclusions that we want to make in our report, and will write a draft for consideration at our next meeting.

Paul said that he is willing to write a short “Consider This” column for the newspaper.

Lucy said that the Harvard Public Schools added 50 new students this year (all from Harvard). She believes it is time for the Board of Selectmen to take a position on disposition, and her view is that Harvard should take back its historic land. It is time for Harvard to decide.

Lucy said that the Mass Development Board of Directors will be holding a meeting at Devens in November, and will be meeting with the Harvard Board of Selectmen at 1pm. These are open meetings and anyone can attend.

Paul suggested that a good way to get the attention citizens is to periodically ask them to vote on issues relating to (in this case) Devens. It's a good way to get a sense of the community, and to put a stake in the ground. Such an approach would break the Devens issues down into smaller, more easily understood pieces. He'd rather see a series of "small" votes rather than one big up-or-down vote at the end. Voting encourages people to discuss the matter at hand, and this serves to educate the whole community at the same time.

Lucy would like to see the Harvard Press do a series of articles on Devens.

Lucy suggested that we treat this year's report as our final report, that we keep it short, and that we be sure to cover all of our recommendations. She also noted that Harvard could draw on its work in prior years, which established a set of disposition criteria.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Select Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

The next meeting was set for Friday, October 2, 2015, at Hildreth House, at 8:00 am.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.