

Master Plan Steering Committee

DRAFT Minutes - - Thursday, September 12, 2013 7:30PM – 8:15PM

Members Present: Joe Hutchinson (Chair), Didi Chadran, Lucy Wallace, SusanMary Redinger

Others in attendance: Rachel Holcomb, Don Ludwig (Finance)

The meeting was called to order at 7:36

Following this afternoon's meeting with RKG the members of the MPSC engaged in a more thorough discussion of the "Devens Question." When the proposals were compared it was generally agreed that they were in line with one another.

Today's meeting also included a counter proposal from RKG – Address Devens differently. Define the conditions (a "yes" or "no" list of criteria) that can be used when it is time for the town to make a final decision on Devens. The list of criteria would help define what Devens would need to provide to Harvard in order for Harvard to resume jurisdiction. Our original model was more numbers driven; RKG would assist in adding definition to the some of the more vague criteria (such as social factors.)

The Devens vote can be funded separately (and handled by a special committee) from the Master Plan; but the Master Plan can provide the criteria. The objective would be to provide the town with a tool that will aid the town in handling the Devens question when it arises.

Members discussed their view of the new proposal. Didi agrees that RKG is strong with stats (finance); but must also focus on "culture" of Harvard. He thinks we are in good shape with RKG; we understood their methodology. Joe is encouraged that RKG has recently broadened their scope beyond financial analysis. Don suggests that we set baseline criteria before applying fiscal analysis. Lucy likes that we are getting a tool to be used in the future with a snapshot of today, and a view to the future.

RKG would re-write the scope; they will accept what has been done so far, but will closely examine the expenses.

Didi made a motion (with a Lucy second):

Based on our discussions from this afternoon the MPSC authorize RKG to redevelop their scope and methodology.

4/0 vote

Joe will inform RKG and request that they please send new scope and method with breakdown of costing.

Lucy suggests that the committee wait to get new scope before informing the Planning Board.

Didi then provided the committee with an overview of the current Communications Plan. Even though the process is changing we still have the same concerns as stated in stage one. We've retained a consultant; as part of this process in working with RKG we already have a more clear understanding. Providing information to town residents via direct mail and print publications were discussed.

Joe will mention the committee's communications concerns (including funding) when he contacts RKG tomorrow. How will they address communications differently (after today's meeting?)

Lucy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/28 meeting as amended. Didi seconded.
Vote 4/0

SusanMary made a motion to adjourn. Lucy seconded.
Vote 4/0. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Holcomb