

Master Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Joe Hutchinson at 9:40 AM

Members Present: Joe Hutchinson, Didi Chadran, Victor Normand, SusanMary Redinger, Lucy Wallace

Liaisons Present: Elaine Lazarus, Joe Theriault, Jaye Waldron

Consultants: Judi Barrett, RKG; Bill Scanlan, PB Planner

Devens Survey and Forum: General discussion on Devens: are the forum and survey premature? Who owns Devens? Who manages Devens? What is the purpose of the survey and forum? SusanMary felt we need to get information on Devens out before asking for opinions. Victor noted, referring to letter from Marty Jones (CEO of MassDevelopment) to Tom Kinch (Devens resident), that MassDevelopment will remain involved with Devens until the remaining acreage (approximately 650 acres) has been sold and redeveloped. We need a metric for getting to the end game or performance standards that all stakeholders agree with. Bill suggested we consider different management scenarios.

Jaye asked what would happen with the current TIFs expire? Would businesses leave?

Joe T. asked about the purpose of the forum. He doesn't believe we can solve Devens, but can start by addressing two major questions: what would the financial impact and what would the cultural impact be if Harvard resumed jurisdiction. Victor believes the financial impact is a straight math problem; the cultural impact will be more difficult to ascertain. Judi noted that trade offs would be involved, regardless of the decision.

Master Plan Elements: Judi distributed a grid based on the focus areas and their respective goals as set out in Phase I. She asked that each member complete the grid, noting which state-mandated element of a master plan aligned with each goal, as follows:

Land use: a big umbrella, which includes zoning, where and what development we want.

Housing

Economic Development: more than the C-District

Transportation: roads, pathways, etc

Open Space and Recreation

Natural, Cultural, Historic Resources: viewsheds, areas of archeological significance, scenic roads, agricultural landscape

Public Facilities and Services

She would like the grid returned by Tuesday, February 11th.

Roundtables and Devens Forum: Joe explained that we had set aside 3 nights for roundtable discussions: March 3rd, 4th, and 5th, anticipating that each of the first two nights would focus on 2 of the 4 focus areas, and the 3rd night be devoted to transportation and public facilities/services. The committee felt we could either combine 2 topics in a single session or have 2 back-to-back sessions each devoted to a single topic. Judi advised we follow the latter format. Evening sessions would run from 6:30 – 9:30 PM. Judi explained that the purpose of the roundtables is to collect information for the master plan working

papers. Lucy asked if these sessions were considered consultant meetings as provided in the scope of work. Judi said these would not be considered or billed as consultant meetings; rather they were part of preparing the working papers.

Joe T. asked about the structure of the Devens forum scheduled for on March 8th. Judi pushed back against using a forum format, preferring instead to follow the roundtable format. Lucy suggested incorporating the findings from the weeknight roundtables (issues that emerged) into the Devens forum as a means of initiating the framework for assessing Devens as envisioned by Judi as incorporating Devens in the master plan. Joe T. reiterated that we need to understand or be able to evaluate the financial and cultural impacts on Harvard with incorporation of Devens.

Judi suggested that the Saturday session be a combination of Devens and roundtables on the other 4 focus areas, thereby gathering input from residents who couldn't make the weeknight sessions. The pros and cons of this approach were discussed, but no format for the Devens session was agreed upon.

SusanMary asked about the timing of the Devens survey. Before or after the roundtables? Judi asked what the MPSC wanted to learn from the survey. After some discussion it was agreed the first survey should be done after the roundtables. The second scheduled survey would be used to test the recommendations of the master plan, coming closer to the end of the contract period.

Didi and Joe H. need to advertise the roundtables ASAP. Judi will need to contact the transportation consultant to find out which night she could attend before topics for each night are finalized. She promised to get back to Joe H. by Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.