

Master Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Joe Hutchinson at 7:05 PM

Members Present: Joe Hutchinson, Didi Chadran, SusanMary Redinger, Lucy Wallace
Liaisons Present: Joe Theriault, Jaye Waldron

EDC Forum: Joe H. reported that the upcoming EDC forum (June 14th at 10:30 AM) is considered, by the EDC, as its annual public outreach meeting. However, the MPSC is concerned about the publicity which has indicated that RKG would be presenting its economic analysis of the C District. We have not authorized RKG nor has RKG done an economic analysis for this meeting. After some discussion about the pros and cons of Judi attending (she would like to just to listen), it was agreed that Joe H. will contact Jim Stevens, chair of the EDC, to advise him that RKG is not participating in the forum. He also will contact Judi and tell her not to attend, even to listen. Several members of the MPSC plan on attending, including Joe H who will tape the session and send a transcript to Judi.

Minutes: The minutes of May 27, 2014 were approved as written.

RKG Invoice: On motion made and seconded , the MPSC agreed to authorize payment of \$3,200 (charged to public participation) of RKG's May 12th invoice, but hold payment of the balance (\$5,280 charged to circulation & transportation) pending receipt of the revised transportation working paper. Joe H. will also advise Judi of this decision.

Survey Update: As of this morning, 183 people had taken the survey – a very small sample and significantly below the number of respondents to the Phase I survey (around 800). Discussion ensued on whether or not we should keep the survey open beyond June 16th, and if we should make a more concerted effort to drive people to take it. Besides the 3 ads Joe H. has run in *The Harvard Press*, Didi has pushed it on Facebook, the PTO list, and Next Door Harvard. There was also a question of how Judi intends to use the results of the survey. According to Joe H., it would be used for anecdotal purposes. Joe T. thought its purpose was to test the findings of the round tables. SusanMary commented there is no sense of urgency to take it. We agreed to close it as scheduled on the 16th and not to do any additional pushes. It was suggested that future assumptions be tested by our going to meet with town boards and committees.

Fall Forums: Joe H. distributed a “straw man” concept for one of two possible forums in the fall: on the C District and on Devens. Given the EDC's pending forum, it was felt another forum in the fall on the C District would not be the best use of our time – nor the public's limited interest/involvement in the master planning process to date. Joe T. suggested we have Bill Scanlon attend our meeting to present the slides and work he has done in preparation for the EDC meeting. It was also agreed that it would be more productive for us to go to various town boards with the findings from the survey, EDC forum, and round tables to get the boards' reactions and feedback. We agreed to drop having a forum on the C District in the fall.

We did agree a forum on Devens would not only be useful, but that the public expects it. Joe T. suggested we ask RKG what additional information we should seek to ascertain at this workshop. Lucy reported on a recent conversation with Judi in which she shared her desire to ask MassDevelopment what services businesses expect of and MassDevelopment provides to them. This would be in addition to our outreach to businesses Judi had previously suggested to find out their reaction to Harvard resuming jurisdiction of Devens.

Miscellaneous: There seems to be a general apathy or lack of public attention to the master plan. We discussed building email lists, but at Didi's recommendation decided to invite friends to join Next Door Harvard. With a subscription of over 400 members, Next Door Harvard offers the best mechanism for outreach. Joe T. suggested we consider using the new cable studio to produce and broadcast short videos on the master plan elements, particularly Devens. He thought that would be a good way to engage the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. Our next meeting will be June 24th at 7 PM.