

Master Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2015

Members Present: Didi Chadran, Kara Minar, Victor Normand, Lucy Wallace

Liaisons Present: Don Ludwig, Jaye Waldron

Planning Board Consultant: Bill Scanlan

Other: Paul Green, DEAT; John Osborn, *The Harvard Press*

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Review of Economic And Financial Findings – Rev 1: Victor's comments were on the 10/8/15 revision were distributed and discussed at length. He noted that the analysis is fixed for 2016 and that as part of a 10-year master plan, the analysis should provide a 10-year projection. Acknowledging that future costs and revenues will be estimates, they will provide a framework for assessing the financial impacts of resuming jurisdiction of Harvard's historic lands within Devens. Victor added that it would be preferable for the consultant to develop a municipal budget, but that is a challenge given the information at hand. He noted that it would be easier to develop a 10-year projection of Devens revenue and expenses than residential Harvard as eventual growth on Devens is known, whereas it is unknown for residential Harvard. Lucy noted that residential growth within Harvard could have a greater negative impact on revenue to expenses for the town than Devens. Residential growth brings children whose educational costs generally exceed the average tax on a 4-bedroom home.

Bill noted that the key question is does Devens improve Harvard's economic state? He suggested we focus on developing a transition plan and provide municipal services (by contract with MassDevelopment) to residents, such as the COA and education.

Victor suggested one recommendation for the master plan would be to assume Harvard would resume jurisdiction and spend the next 10 years learning more about the costs to be incurred and revenues to be earned, developing a true municipal budget, and understanding more fully how Devens could help Harvard reach its master plan goals.

There was concern that Burns & McDonnell's methodology and assumptions need greater explanation in order to understand their projection.

Lucy asked about the value of section 2.5, Economic Contributions. It did not seem to add to the understanding of Devens' financial impact as the analysis was based on a model, IMPLAN, which may be more appropriate to a more urban area.

It was agreed that a conference call with the report's author, Sarah Torres, would be beneficial. Bill will contact Mark about setting up a call for Monday (12/2) at 10AM. Bill will also contact Mark about meeting with the committee on Wednesday (12/4) at 7 PM (place to be determined) to do a run through of the November 12th program. Mark and Victor are to be panelists and Bill will act as moderator.

The next regular MPSC meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.