

Master Plan Steering Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Joe Hutchinson at 7:07 PM.

Members Present: Joe Hutchinson, Bill Scanlan, SusanMary Redinger, Victor Normand, Didi Chadran, Elaine Lazarus

**Escalation of contract disagreement**

Joe has been working with Town Administrator Tim Bragan, who gave Craig Seymour the message that we want the whole thing, and we want it by March 9.

Joe has posted a meeting for Monday, 3/9 at 2:30 PM in Town Hall Meeting Room to discuss the addendum that Tim Bragan drafted to amend the current amended contract with RKG. The meeting is intended to be a public meeting to negotiate the delivery of services under the town's contract with the firm.

Tim indicated to Joe that if there is a lawsuit, the funds will be frozen.

Among other provisions, Item #9 in the addendum stipulates a penalty of \$500 per day for further delays. We have paid approximately half the contract value, approximately \$50,000, to date.

SusanMary noted that she believes Judi is an essential attendee to the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, since Item #2 calls for the reestablishment of "rapport."

Victor noted that we should not accept anything less than the full plan.

If RKG cannot deliver within this time frame then the contract will be terminated and no further payments will be made to the firm for this work.

Victor opined that a settlement might be a likely outcome, given the positions of the parties in the dispute.

Joe plans to communicate to Tim Bragan the following positions that MPSC has decided to take:

1. We do not want to receive any portion of the plan; we will only accept the complete plan.
2. We want Judi to be present for the meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, given our need to reestablish rapport.

**Devens Framework**

The matrix seems to draw from work the MPSC did very early in the process. It is not connected to any of the findings or recommendations of the Master Plan draft materials the committee has received to date.

SusanMary expressed concern over the possibility that on March 9<sup>th</sup> RKG simply delivers the work the committee has reviewed to date, with missing sections, etc. Different chapters have varied greatly in terms of quality, the thoroughness of the findings, and the effectiveness of the recommendations.

This points even more strongly to the importance of having Judi attend the meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Victor expressed the opinion that we need to assert the fact that this plan is ours. The feeling in working with Judi is that the plan is not ours.

Meeting rooms should be booked soon for the public meetings listed in Addendum #2, given the shortage of suitable spaces.