

**HARVARD PLANNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2012
APPROVED: October 1, 2012**

Chairwoman Michelle Catalina opened the meeting at 7:03pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Michelle Catalina, Peter Brooks, Tim Schmoyer, Rich Marcello and Joe Hutchinson

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Lucy Wallace, Jim Breslauer and Bill Johnson

Discuss Master Plan

Catalina stated the most compelling piece to the Master Plan (MP) is a direction with Devens. The survey conducted during the Phase I process showed 90% of the respondents want to know what the Town is going to do about Devens. Many feel there is still not enough available information to make that decision. The 2002 MP ignored Devens altogether. The Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) was seeking to take a different approach – take an educated look at Devens. The data shows that it does not make any sense to ignore Devens. The MPSC spent a great deal of energy on this subject matter, which resulted in two mind sets, one which thought the Town had studied Devens enough and those who thought the MPSC should better reflect both sides of the issue; Harvard accepting its historical boundaries, which includes Devens or Harvard not taking back its historical boundaries. When discussing the request for \$100,000 to complete Phase II of the MP with the Finance Committee this past spring, Catalina had stated the MPSC would not repeat any work that had already been completed.

After Annual Town Meeting (ATM) this past spring it became clear the MPSC was split down the middle on how to deal with Devens and whether or not to include it in the final MP. MPSC agreed they should not ignore Devens again, but could not agree with balancing the members of the MPSC. The MPSC could not agree upon how much information should be included in the Request for Proposal (RFP) as it pertained to Devens; should the consultant be left to gather their own information in regards to Devens or should the RFP include information on Devens. The MPSC tried to work through it, but could not.

Marcello stated he agrees with Catalina; however he joined the MPSC late in the game. Along the way people had left for one reason or another. Hutchinson left the MPSC right after the completion of Phase I. Marcello tried to run the meetings after Hutchinson's departure and in Catalina's absence. Marcello stated some of the MPSC members could no longer participate with the make up of the MPSC. Marcello believes in a balanced approach and looking at the issue in a way that allows for different perspectives. There was some that felt that the MPSC was not balanced in the Phase I.

Hutchinson stated he could talk to what the agenda was rather than the problem. Hutchinson felt the task should have been taken back to the Planning Board (PB); however it is a lot of work. The way Hutchinson managed Phase I was to work backwards on the tasks and kept the progress and project moving. The MPSC met once a week and some times more, with the level of discussion being intense at times. All in all, Hutchinson was delighted with the final product of Phase I and thought the committee worked well together.

Marcello stated he thinks the whole thing fell apart after the completion of Phase I.

Brooks is confused as he thought the funds appropriated at the ATM were for the completion of the MP and not for a financial analysis of Devens. As previously stated, Brooks was against the update of the MP until the Town knew what was happening with Devens.

Brooks stated using the example that the Town votes to take back Devens, the PB develops a MP for a town that may not exist. Hutchinson stated the task is to develop a MP. Schmoyer stated he thinks the PB has decided to write a MP. Hutchinson thought this evening was an after action report. No Schmoyer said this was to get the background of Phase I of the MP. Brooks again stated he previous statement about not doing a MP.

Catalina thinks there are some aspects of Devens that if taken back would change some of the requirements of the MP. Schmoyer stated it is incumbent on PB to get the information out to the people and make a decision on Devens to be able to complete a MP.

Marcello stated assuming you decide to do a MP there are multiple ways to skin a cat. The matter to decide upon is does the PB want to do MP, if so what is the approach? Schmoyer is concerned with going to the Town for more money for a consultant. The question was asked how much of the \$100,000 appropriation is for the MP? Catalina stated all of it. (NOTE: In the report to the PB prior to ATM the MPSC figured 40% for Devens Impact Analysis, 38% Master Plan Statutory Elements, 12% Ayer Road C-District and Economic Development and 10% on Education and Public Outreach)

Brooks stated last year the PB voted to complete an update of the 2002 MP; at the ATM the town voted to allocate funds for Phase II of the MP; the question now is does the PB complete the MP update of the Town the way it exist today or take the funds allocated and look at Devens, which could easily burn up the \$100,000. Schmoyer thoughts would be to do the worse case scenario, plan for a future in the worse case. If you are going to try and plan out the future, ask consultant to take a look at how the changes, for example taking Devens back, what will that make the Town look like.

Hutchinson stated Harvard has a small revenue issue and people look towards Devens as a solution; the PB needs to look at what happens if Harvard does not take back Devens. Brooks likes the approach what is the impact to the Town if Harvard takes back Devens.

The MPSC was split on how you approach the work; is it prescriptive or broadband? Brooks stated the MPSC was made up of members who had a prescriptive outlook. The MPSC debated on bringing others in and the work that has been completed. Some felt all of the boards and committees should be engaged, such as the School Committee. Some on the MPSC felt that was not necessary. Promises were made by members of the Phase I MPSC that others would be more involved with Phase II.

Hutchinson would like to engage the people in the middle of the issue to raise the level of awareness. Schmoyer thinks Phase II should be left to the consultant and the MPSC should do very little. Marcello stated if the PB votes to dissolve the MPSC the five members of the PB would have to be willing to take on work to get Phase II completed. Marcello wants to honor the commitment made to the Town. Marcello understands this is not a small amount of work.

Marcello stated the PB does a lot of short term work and very little that is long term focus; what is it that the members of the PB wants this Board to be; more balance between long and short term. Brooks stated the PB's permit planning activities should be subordinate to the actual planning requirements.

Schmoyer thinks Phase I did well and would like to find the path of least resistance with Phase II. Catalina stated that the money was specific to the use that the Town voted upon, and the PB can not sway from that.

Brooks made a motion to defer the update of the Master Plan until the 2013 Annual Town Meeting, at which the citizens can vote on a direction with Devens. There was no second to this motion.

Schmoyer made a motion that the Planning Board completes a Master Plan by the end of 2014. Hutchinson seconded the motion. Catalina asked if that would include a direction with Devens. Schmoyer stated either way a Master Plan should be completed by 2014. Marcello seconded the motion. The vote was 2-3, with Catalina Brooks and Hutchinson opposing.

Schmoyer made a second motion to have a Master Plan completed by 2014 to include the statute requirements and the result of whether or not the Town wants to of take back the historic boundaries of Devens. Catalina thinks Schmoyer is starting at the end. Schmoyer withdrew his second motion and reinstated his first motion that the Planning Board completes a Master Plan by the end of 2014. This motion was withdrawn by Schmoyer.

Schmoyer made a motion to disband the Master Plan Steering Committee to allow the Planning Board the ability to determine the direction of Phase II of the Master Plan. Marcello seconded the motion. Hutchinson stated that it is a lot of work; need someone who will take it from the beginning to the end. Brooks stated he is willing to contribute time to this, however he has a full plate with his real life as does everyone else. Marcello stated the PB has two options, take back the update of the Master Plan or re-form the committee. Schmoyer does not think getting another steering committee is worth it. Catalina stated if the PB takes it back then maybe we take some time to explore what can be done. The final vote was 4-1 with Hutchinson opposing.

The RFP's previously developed by the MPSC will be distributed to the members for their review, a schedule will need to be developed and the Phase I final report will be re-distributed.

Brooks made a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm. Marcello seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Signed: _____
Liz Allard, Clerk