

***Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC)
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Minutes February 28, 2023***

Members Present: James DeZutter, Melissa Fetterhoff, Robert Gardner, Christopher Lilly, William Marshall, Martin Poutry, Deb Rivera, Deb Seeley

Staff: Peter Lowitt, Neil Angus, Beth Suedmeyer, Dawn Babcock

Guests: Phil Fama (Resident), Cindy Carter (Resident), Meg Delorier (Acting EVP for MassDevelopment)

Members Absent: Duncan Chapman, Dix Davis, Paul Routhier, Jim Pinard

(6:45 PM) Chairman William Marshall called the meeting to order and did a roll call.

Mr. Marshall read that the Devens Enterprise Commission Regular Meeting and Public Hearing is being held virtually in accordance with the Act (Senate Bill #2475) relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or on-line. Persons with disabilities or requiring interpretation wishing to listen or participate should contact 978.772.8831 x3334. In accordance with the State's Open Meeting Law, Mr. Angus informed all attendees that the Devens Enterprise Commission is recording this meeting.

(6:47 PM) Chairman Marshall noted, we will need to nominate Ms. Rivera as a Regional Representative for this meeting. He then asked for a Motion to Nominate Ms. Rivera which was made by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Ms. Seeley. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

(6:49 PM) Mr. Marshall reviewed the Agenda of this evening's meeting.

(6:50 PM) Review Minutes:

- **February 9th Minutes** were discussed. Mr. Marshall asked if anyone had any edits or concerns, none were noted. Mr. Marshall then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was made by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Mr. Poutry. The Motion to approve the February 9th minutes was **Approved by a roll call vote. Ms. Rivera and Mr. Lilly abstained from voting as they were not present for the February 9th meeting.**

Public Hearings:

None to review for this meeting.

New Business:

(6:52 PM) 2023 Seasonal Population Estimate for ABCC: Mr. Lowitt updated the Commissioners on the Seasonal estimate that will be submitted to the ABCC this year. Mr. Lowitt noted that this year we will be including the population from the Shriver Job Core as they are registered voters and MassDevelopment includes them in their count. So, our Estimate will be 950 and will be sent to the ABCC tomorrow.

(6:53 PM) Ground Water Well Moratorium: Mr. Lowitt reviewed the draft order establishing a Private Well and Ground Water Well Moratorium. The order talks about the PFAS and PFOA and other substances and the draft discusses our role as the Board of Health here at Devens, to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The order lays out that part of the reason for a moratorium is use of groundwater for irrigation can result in pumping contaminated water from the ground and putting it on land that isn't contaminated. The second paragraph does note that we do have public water available and that the Utilities Department has met all state and federal regulations for safe ground water. The third paragraph talks about how we are going to protect the public and the fourth paragraph talks about the order itself and how it is important to protect yourself. The Moratorium also notes that this order will not only be for residential wells but for businesses and irrigation wells as well. The existing wells can remain, but should they go offline the owner will need to consider other options, such as municipal or "town" water. Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to approve the order. The motion was made by Mr. DeZutter and seconded by Mr. Gardner. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

(7:06 PM) Read File: Mr. Angus reviewed the documents that have been put in the read file rather having handouts:

- Potential Harvard Connection to Devens Water System
- Sequens Articles
- Commonwealth Fusion Articles
- Intake Shelter Articles

- Tufts Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning Event
- Symposium in Ayer March 10th and 11th
- Ayer/Devens Main Street Pocket Forest Save the Date

(7:11 PM) Old Business: Mr. Marshall asked if there was any old business and Mr. Lowitt said not tonight.

(7:12 PM) Public Comment: Mr. Marshall asked if there are any questions from the public. There were no questions or comments.

(7:14 PM) Mr. Marshall announced that we have two Commissioners that will be leaving as soon as their replacement has been names. Mr. Davis and Mr. DeZutter. Mr. Marshall noted that they have been members for a long time and will be greatly missed. Mr. DeZutter then spoke and said he has been a member of the board since 1995 and one of the original members with Mr. Routhier and Mr. Marshall so it is with mixed feelings he is making this move. Mr. Marshall noted that with the naming of the new commissioners there may be a change in the structure as Mr. DeZutter had been the Vice-Chair. Ms. Delorier wanted to thank the gentleman for all their work and noted that Mr. Davis had been a member of the Mass Development Board as well.

(7:17 PM) Mr. Marshall then noted the upcoming meetings. March 9th 7:30 AM the Monthly Meeting and March 28th 6:45 PM Public Hearing. Mr. Marshall also noted that the announcement of returning back to in-person may be made at one of these meetings and the return may take place as soon as April.

(7:22 PM) Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. The motion was made by Ms. Seeley and seconded by Mr. Gardner. Adjournment was concluded unanimously by Roll Call.

List of Exhibits

Agenda

Minutes

- February 9, 2023

Public Hearing

- None

New Business

- 2023 Seasonal Population Estimate for ABCC
- Ground Water Well Moratorium
- Read File

Old Business

- None