

Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC)
In-Person/Remote Hybrid Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Minutes February 27, 2024

Members Present (in person): Robert Gardner, Christopher Lilly, William Marshall, Jim Pinard, Martin Poutry

Members (remote): Melissa Fetterhoff, Deborah Seeley

Members Absent: Duncan Chapman, Debra Rivera, Paul Routhier

Staff (in person): Neil Angus, Beth Suedmeyer, Dawn Babcock

Guests (in person): Dix Davis (retired commissioner), Sarah Davis (Worcester), James DeZutter (retired commissioner), Pat Flynn (New Hampshire), Jerry DeZutter (Hudson), Jennifer Sullivan (Hudson), Philip DeZutter (Upton), Justin Hollander (Tufts Professor), Ann Sussman (the Hapi.org)

Guests (remote): Meg Delorier (VP MassDevelopment), Ralph Fehlberg (Resident), Laura Scott (Resident), Keith Pruett (State Police), Jessie and Jeff Lowe (Resident), Dona Neely (Devens Eco-Efficiency Center), Robert Jenkins (Real Estate MassDevelopment) (joined at 7:04 PM),

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

Mr. Marshall read that the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) Regular Meeting and Public Hearing is being held both remotely AND in-person in accordance with the supplemental budget bill signed into law by Governor Healey, further suspending certain open meeting law requirements to March 31, 2025. Interested individuals may attend in-person at this address or listen in and participate by phone and/or on-line by following the link and/or phone # at the top of the agenda. 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, the Chairman informed all attendees that this meeting is being recorded by the Devens Enterprise Commission. Persons with disabilities or requiring interpretation wishing to listen or participate should contact 978.772.8831 x3334.

(6:50 PM) Mr. Marshall reviewed the agenda of this evening's meeting.

(6:52 PM) Review Minutes:

- **February 8th Minutes** were discussed. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any comments about the minutes and none were made. Mr. Marshall then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. **The motion was made by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Mr. Poutry. The minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote.**

New Business:

- **(6:53 PM) Commissioner Retirement and Recognition:** Mr. Marshall acknowledged the two commissioners who have retired from their positions, Dix Davis, and Jim DeZutter. Mr. Marshall noted that Mr. DeZutter was one of the founding fathers as well as the Vice Chair when he was in office. Mr. Davis was a member of the Land Bank (now known as MassDevelopment). Mr. Marshall read the certificates that were presented to the gentlemen. Ms. Neely wanted to thank Mr. Davis for his many years of service on the Eco-Efficiency board of directors. Mr. Gardner noted that he appreciated both gentlemen for their years of service and noted that he and Mr. Davis were on the Land Bank Board together. Ms. Delorier thanked both Mr. Davis and Mr. DeZutter for their years of service.
- **(7:06 PM) Devens Eco-Efficiency Center (DEEC) 2023 Annual Report:** Ms. Neely noted that the Eco-Efficiency has had a phenomenal year both with collecting furniture and supplies as well as sales. The Board of Directors has been re-filled since the members stepped down. Mr. Angus as the president, Mr. Poutry is the Secretary and Ms. Rivera is filling the Treasury position. They have created a new website THEDEEC.COM, the partnership numbers have increased they have even formed partnerships with Construction companies, moving companies as well as universities. The DEEC has become statewide recognized as they are working

with Mass Recycle, and Recycle Works – which is a non-profit department that is hosted by DEP. The on-line sales have been great. They have been using eBay and Facebook Marketplace. Ms. Neely noted that they have also enhanced their social media presence now on Facebook, Website, and LinkedIn. The DEEC has set up a sponsorship site where companies and individuals can support the organization. They have already received two sponsorships, NovAlarms Systems and RA Adventures. Ms. Neely said that they have added a community page to their website, and they are planning updates frequently. The Marketing advances – they are looking to adjust the tracking to the number of items collected rather than the weight collected, and for the value they will note the recovered dollar amount as well as the savings to shoppers. Ms. Neely has created a snapshot highlighting waste prevention and community. The DEEC has been lucky to partner with other organizations that have been able to use items that are not appropriate for the DEEC shoppers, one being the World Health Organization, taking items the DEEC cleaned out of a medical facility recently. Mr. DeZutter commented that he stands by his earlier comments that the Eco-Efficiency Center is a worthwhile investment. Mr. Angus noted Ms. Neely's work has received international recognition.

- **(7:26 PM) Tufts / Devens Biometric Study:** Mr. Angus noted this study is part of a long-standing partnership between Tufts and Devens Enterprise Commission this study is, looking at how buildings, neighborhoods impact us not only physically, but mentally, and unconsciously. Mr. Angus then turned the floor over to Professor Hollander and Ms. Sussman. This presentation they shared focused on the Green and Complete Streets policy here in Devens, which was adopted about 3 years ago, showing the different responses between Grant Road new urbanist development in Devens and Snake Hill Road, a more traditional suburban development in Ayer. They are looking at unconscious responses to the two spaces. This study was based on Grant Road with less asphalt and more trees/green space, to Snake Hill Road which has the houses set far back from the street and an abundance of pavement and very little trees/green space near the road. Ms. Sussman noted that with the increase of tools and techniques to measure all these things, they are finding out that we are more feeling animals that thinking, instead of thinking animals that feel. The testing showed a stronger point of eye fixation on green spaces rather than pavement, and that sends a subconscious message to the brain, getting you out walking more. This can be a primitive connection to nature. Science is showing that greener, more walkable areas equals the road to well-being. Mr. Angus reminded the commissioners, when they originally presented the green and complete street policy / guide, they worked with the developer of Grant Road and the developer is still interested in implementing some more of these green elements into their next phase of development on Goddard Street. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any comments or questions, none were asked.
- **(7:44 PM) Biological Safety Guidelines:** Mr. Angus noted that we currently have a number of Bio Tech companies and more looking to come to Devens. So, this is perfect timing to ensure we have the proper policies in place to ensure safety for everyone. Mr. Angus has been working with the Legal Counsel, Fire/Safety, Tech Consultant and Health inspectors on these guidelines to ensure safety for Devens. The risk levels are coded 1 through 4, the higher the number the higher the risk level. Mr. Angus has been using Boxboro and Summerville Bio Safety Regulations as guidelines when drafting our guidelines. Mr. Angus doesn't believe there will be any level 4 business coming into Devens, so they will be dedicating their time to levels 1 – 3 at this time. The Draft Policy currently has 16-line items, but this is still a work in progress. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions. Ms. Delorier stated that she would like to request that Fire and Police be included in discussions on this topic. Mr. Angus said that he would be sure to include them both. Mr. Fehlberg was pleased to see the possibility of resident representation included in these discussions.
- **(8:04 PM) Read File:** Ms. Suedmeyer went over the articles in the Read File: 1) **Plans for Devens-Harvard Connector path stall as proponents and stakeholders' wrangle.** 2) **Ascend Elements Raises Additional \$162 Million to Build Sustainable Lithium-ion Battery Materials in Unites States.** 3) **Framework Committee send plan for new housing at Vicksburg Square to MassDevelopment.** 4) **How Eye Tracking Reveals what really makes streets walkable.** 5) **Court Martial at Fort Devens – a play by Arlington Friends of the Drama.**

Old Business:

- **None Tonight**

Public Comment:

- **(7:49 PM)** Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions from the Public in the room or on Zoom. None were asked. Mr. Angus did want to let him know that he will be presenting at the Devens Committee on March 6th.

(8:13 PM) Mr. Marshall noted the next scheduled meetings are March 7th at 7:30 AM, (Zoom Meeting) and March 26th at 6:45 PM (Hybrid Meeting).

(8:14 PM) Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Mr. Pinard. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

List of Exhibits

- Agenda
- February 8th Draft Minutes
- New Business
 - Devens Eco-Efficiency Center 2023 Annual Report
 - Tufts/Devens Biometric Study / Phase 3 Presentation
 - Biosafety Policy Presentation
 - Draft Devens Biosafety Policy
 - Read File