Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC)
In-Person/Remote Hybrid Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Minutes July 30, 2024

Members Present (in person): Christopher Lilly, William Marshall, Marty Poutry, Debra Rivera,
Members (remote): Duncan Chapman, Melissa Fetterhoff, Paul Routhier
Members Absent: Robert Gardner, James Pinard, Deborah Seeley
Staff (in person): Neil Angus, Beth Suedmeyer, Dawn Babcock
Guests (in person): Van Easton (Devens), Carl Sciple (Harvard)
Guests (remote): Keith Pruett (Mass State Police), Cindy Carter (Devens Resident), Meg Delorier (VP MassDevelopment), Donna Bulger (Clear Path for Veterans), Kristi Iannacone (Clear Path for Veterans)

(6:45 PM) Chairman William Marshall called the meeting to order and noted that we will be adjusting the schedule as we have limited time for some of our commissioners. Mr. Marshall also recognized what a great job everyone involved did at the Vietnam display of the Wall that Heals this past week, then noted as to what a great job Ms. Delorier did as one of the speakers. The event was a great success.

(6:46 PM) Chairman Marshall noted, we will need to nominate Ms. Rivera as a voting Regional Representative for this meeting. **The motion was made by Mr. Poutry and seconded by Mr. Lilly. The nomination was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.**

(6:47 PM) Mr. Marshall did the roll call.

(6:49 PM) <u>Event Permit and One-Day All Alcoholic Beverage License</u> request by Clear Path for Veterans New England for the <u>Devens Dog & Music Festival</u> to take place on Museum Field at 27 Antietam Street (Parcel ID #31-99-900) on Saturday August 17, 2024, from 12 Noon – 4 PM, with a rain date of Sunday August 18, 2024. Ms. Suedmeyer noted that this is the seventh year that Clear Path for Veterans has held this event, and that the majority of the event is the same as in the past. She then asked Ms. Bulger and Ms. Iannacone if there were any comments that they would like to add. Ms. Bulger did note that this year's event will be a month earlier than in the past as well as starting earlier in the day from Noon to 4:00 PM. Ms. Bulger noted that they have met with Hillary Clark from Devens Recreation already regarding the space and layout for the event and they are reaching out to the Public Safety and State Police to ensure they have them on board for the event as well. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions from the Commissioners and then the Public, but none were asked from either. Mr. Marshall then requested a motion to close the hearing. **The motion was made by Mr. Lilly and seconded by Mr. Routhier. The motion to close the hearing was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.** Mr. Marshall then asked for a motion to approve the Event and 1-Day All Liquor License for the Devens Dog and Music Festival at 27 Antietam Street (Parcel ID #31-99-900) on Saturday August 17, 2024, from 12 Noon – 4 PM, with a rain date of Sunday August 18, 2024. **The motion was made by Mr. Lilly and seconded by Mr. Poutry the motion to approve the Event and 1-Day All Liquor License was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.**

(6:53 PM) Mr. Angus asked if it would be possible to move to the first New Business Item while we had a quorum? Mr. Marshall agreed.

(6:54 PM) Affordable Housing Monitoring Contract Renewal: Mr. Angus noted that he had mailed out a copy of the contract which is shared with several neighboring towns (Assabet Regional Housing Consortium, led by the Town of Hudson) to the commissioners prior to the meeting for their review. Mr. Angus noted that Metro West Collaborative Development Corporation is our affordable housing monitor which we have been working with for a number of years. This contract is for the renewal of the intermunicipal agreement for the shared services and for a three-year term. There are number of activities that they monitor, including our low-income and moderate-income affordable housing units.

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They send letters annually to the homeowners to ensure they are aware they are in an affordable housing unit, check in. e eligibility, and assist with sales to qualified buyers, to name a few. The yearly fee is split between Devens Enterprise Commission and MassDevelopment, the fee is about $1500 a year plus a $250 administrative fee and the contract is for a three-year time frame. Mr. Angus is looking for approval from the commissioners to continue this contract and if approved we will need the commissioners present to sign the contract. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions. Mr. Routhier asked how has it been working with this contractor? Mr. Angus noted that it has been great working with them, and they actually had a tour of Devens just last week for the renewed contract, so they see where the houses are in Devens. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions, none were asked. Mr. Marshall then asked for a motion to approve the signing of the contract. **The motion to approve the signing of the contract was made by Mr. Poutry and Seconded by Ms. Riveria. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.**

Mr. Marshall thanked Ms. Fetterhoff for adjusting her schedule to join the meeting so we could have a quorum for the two items that required a vote. Ms. Fetterhoff signed off from the meeting at 6:55 PM and the Commission lost quorum. Mr. Angus noted that no further votes could be taken due to the lack of a quorum.

(6:58 PM) Mr. Marshall noted that the minutes from the June 25th meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting when we have a quorum again.

Mr. Marshall went over the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) Meeting conduct, accessibility, and administrative matters.

New Business:

(7:01 PM) Read File: Mr. Angus noted that there were eight articles in the read file that the commissioners should take a look at. One of the items noted is the Devens Housing Updates, Harvard Press posted a couple articles regarding the Housing Cap and the work that is being done in both the House and Senate. It seems that in one version of the economic development bill included the Devens Enterprise Commission and excluded the Devens Committee from the Working Group List and the other version left the Devens Committee on and excluded the Devens Enterprise Commission. Mr. Angus spoke to both Senators Cronin and Eldridge as well as Representative Sena and all three have submitted a joint letter to the house and senate stating that they would like both the Devens Committee, and the Devens Enterprise Commission included in the Working Group for this project.

Mr. Routhier asked if anyone from our Commission has written a letter to the Government officials regarding the closing of the Nashoba Valley Hospital, seeing so much of Devens will be affected by the closing? Mr. Lilly asked if DEC should write a letter? Since there was no quorum, Mr. Angus suggested he work with Mr. Marshall on a letter. Ms. Delorier noted that a number of the neighboring Fire Departments are meeting weekly with Commissioner of Public Health to work through all the issues and concerns they have with the hospital closing.

Ms. Suedmeyer noted that on Tuesday August 6th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM there will be a Public Event, Paint Party at the Public Art Installation site. Advanced Signup is requested. Also, there are still some Vicksburg Square window panels available for painting if anyone is interested.

Old Business:

- **(7:16 PM) Mr. Marshall asked if there was any Old Business. Mr. Angus noted there wasn't any.**

Public Comment:

- **(7:17 PM) Mr. Marshall asked if there were any comments or questions from the Public in the room or on Zoom. None were asked.**

DRAFT

- **(7:18 PM)** Mr. Marshall noted the next scheduled meetings are August 8th at 7:30 AM, (Zoom Meeting) and August 27th at 6:45 PM, (Hybrid Meeting).

(7:18 PM) Mr. Marshall noted with no more topics to discuss he is closing the meeting. No vote was taken due to lack of quorum. Commissioners left at 7:19PM and the zoom call was terminated at the same time.

List of Exhibits

- **Agenda**
- **June 25th Draft Minutes**
- Dog and Music Festival
  - **Application**
  - **Site Plan and Summary of Events**
  - **Staff Report**
- **Assabet Regional Housing Consortium Affordable Housing Contract**
- **Read File**

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