

Devens Enterprise Commission

DEC Public Hearing & Meeting Minutes October 8, 2020

Members: Duncan Chapman, Dix Davis, Jim DeZutter, Melissa Fetterhoff, Robert Gardner, Christopher Lilly, William Marshall, Marty Poutry, Debra Rivera, Paul Routhier

Staff: Peter Lowitt, Neil Angus, Kate Clisham

Absent: Robert Markley, Jim Pinard

This meeting was held virtual via Zoom Meeting in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A. s.20.

W. Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM and read the agenda.

M/S/V D. Davis, R. Gardner to appoint D. Rivera as a voting member; approved unanimously

W. Marshall took roll call and went over the virtual meeting procedures. The following individuals were also in attendance: From Republic Services: Frank Chimera, Nick Stevkovich, Bob Fico & Kurt MacNamara, former owner and consultant to Republic Services, and from DEEC: Dona Neely & Amanda Lansing

Minutes:

J. DeZutter asked what the term deeply affordable units refers to under the Shirley Meadows discussion in the August 6, 2020 minutes. P. Lowitt explained affordable units are eligible to people making up to 80% of average median income. Deeply affordable units are targeted to families making as little as 30% of average median income.

M/S/V R. Gardner, D. Davis to approve June 30, 2020 and August 6, 2020 minutes as written; approved unanimously.

7:39 AM 45 Independence Drive – Devens Recycling Center (DRC)/Republic Services Introduction

Frank Chimera introduced the members of the Republic Services team: Nick Stevkovich, Bob Fico, Kurt MacNamara former DRC owner and consultant to Republic Services. He thanked P. Lowitt and N. Angus for their time over the past year while Republic Services was in the process of purchasing Devens Recycling Center (DRC). F. Chimera provided a PowerPoint and noted Republic Services is an industry leader in recycling and solid waste disposal and currently operate in 41 states across the US with about 36,000 employees. He reported Republic Services acquired DRC at the end of January 2020 and the facility is the largest construction and demolition (C&D) processing center in Massachusetts and serves as a processing and disposal location for the area in and around Devens. After material is processed it's sent out via a combination of trucks and railcars. Given the DRCs proximity to the Ayer intermodal facility he indicated there is an opportunity to send a larger volume out via railcar. F. Chimera reported Republic is in the process of installing a state of the art compactor to make that a reality while also considering the expansion of the current onsite rail infrastructure. He indicated the benefits of the added railcar use would be more sustainable and they would be able to process the materials at a faster rate. N. Stevkovich reported they are excited to be part of the Devens community and they are impressed with the Devens development.

7:57 AM Devens Eco-Efficiency Center Update – Dona Neely

D. Neely provided a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the Devens Eco-Efficiency Centers (DEEC) accomplishments for 2019 through the third quarter of 2020. D. Neely reported there is a lot going on right now and word continues to spread about the Great Exchange. She noted the DEEC was established as 501(c)3 in July 2009 and achieved its first profitable year in FY2019. She reported there were a wide range of educational programs held in 2019 including active shooter training, fire extinguisher use, hearing conservation and stop the bleed to name a few. D. Neely reported the Great Exchange (TGE) unveiled a new logo in January 2020 with a more recognizable and professional image. She reported TGE hosted 23 distribution events and provided 20 facility cleanouts that totaled over 50% of TGE total inventory. D. Neely noted the updated pricing model established for non-profit and for profit entities. She reported on the impact of the pandemic as operations paused from April – August and educational programs transitioned to Zoom and operations transitioned to a new normal. D. Neely introduced Amanda Lansing who started working with the DEEC just a few weeks prior to the shut down. A. Lansing reported shes enjoyed the DEEC/TGE mission and looks forward to continuing to grow the program. She indicated TGE is now open 3 days/week by appointment and with a little more work they are pleased to accept resources and have excited customers continuing to shop. A. Lansing has updated the FaceBook page which has been more active during the shutdown. D. Neely reported TGE will soon have its own website. She indicated the DEP

grant is wrapping up. She ended the presentation with a tour of the Great Exchange prepared by A. Lansing which is posted on FaceBook

8:30 AM **Devens Project Updates**

P. Lowitt reported there was a microburst last night at Devens and several trees were downed causing a power outage for several hours. N. Angus reported this report covers more than a quarter and despite the pandemic there is a lot going on. He went through the update noting multiple projects that have been completed and are currently in progress, namely: Devens Village Green/Grant Road housing, newly stripped bike lanes, BMS Cell Therapy Facility 38 Jackson Rd., Clear Path for Veterans New England 84 Antietam St., Vulcan Forms at 112 Barnum Rd remain ongoing or just starting. Recently completed projects include: Little Leaf Farms expansion at 105 Walker Rd., BMS Lab Office Cafeteria, BMS campus-wide sidewalk connections and BMS Cryogenics building expansion all located at 38 Jackson Rd., Shirley Meadows senior housing opened in August, Bio-Techne expansion recently completed in September, sidewalk connections on Patton Road from Tara Vista down to Mirror Lake furthering Devens Complete Streets goals. There are a number of projects in the pipeline expected to submit applications this winter. N. Angus updated the Commission the COVID-19 numbers remained in the low category to date. W. Marshall thanked N. Angus for the thorough report. D. Davis noted this was very impressive and asked if there would be anything happening with Vicksburg Square. N. Angus reported any votes or super town meetings have been stalled with the pandemic but hopefully the subject will be revisited next year. He noted considering in person meetings are not taking place this would be hard to cover over Zoom. J. DeZutter asked about the Climate Action Plan and asked adding the Devens Museum to recognize them. He noted they are looking for more space as they're currently bursting at the seams. If we could highlight their work and perhaps help with their efforts. N. Angus agreed and noting the Devens Museum is a great asset to Devens as they recover and preserve Devens artifacts and memorabilia. R. Gardner also agreed and noted he is on the Board. He spoke in favor of helping the Devens Museum if we possibly can.

9:00 AM **Public Comment:** None

W. Marshall reminded all our next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 27, 2020 at 6:45 PM. He also noted the MassDevelopment Board of Directors meeting taking place today with the Devens community portion at 11 AM. P. Lowitt indicated he would be presenting to the MassDevelopment Board.

9:02 AM **M/S/V** R. Gardner, M. Fetterhoff to adjourn, approved unanimously.

List of Exhibits –

- Agenda, Draft Minutes 6/30/2020 & 8/6/2020
- Republic Services Introduction Presentation
- DEEC Presentation 2019-2020 Update
- Project Updates September 2020