

DEC VIRTUAL READ FILE

5/30/23

DEVENS IN THE NEWS:

Devens Sustainable Freight Forum: On May 12th, the DEC, in collaboration with the US EPA SmartWay program and the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center, hosted an in-person event for local and regional businesses to assist in raising awareness of services, strategies and funding that can help business achieve sustainability and cost savings in freight and shipping operations. Attendees from over 20 local and regional businesses attended and were provided with some great resources to support more efficient freight operations.



Devens Enterprise Commission

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A great morning forum in Devens last Friday on sustainable freight strategies for local businesses in Devens and the surrounding region! Thanks to our partners [The Great Exchange Devens](#), [U.S. EPA - New England Region SmartWay program](#), [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#), [Intelligent Labor & Moving](#), [Trucking Association of Massachusetts- TAM](#), and [CALSTART](#) for their great presentations and the electric truck demo! Couldn't make it to the forum? check out the presentations her... [See more](#)



Photos

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Devens Housing Cap Elimination Proposed Budget Amendment:

Budget Amendment ID: FY2024-S3-282

ECO 282

Devens Housing Cap Elimination

Mr. Cronin moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section ___ the following section:-

Section __. Chapter 498 of the Acts of 1993, as previously amended, is hereby further amended by inserting the following paragraph:-

“Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law or rule or regulation, plan, reuse plan, by law or ordinance to the contrary, and to advance the regional development objectives for which the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone was established, and to ameliorate the ongoing housing crisis in the Commonwealth, residential, irrespective of the number of units, shall be a permitted use and housing a development goal in zoning district established by Article V(A)(13) of the Devens By-laws, any limitation on the maximum number of square feet of building space to be developed and/or used in Devens under the Reuse Plan and By-Laws established pursuant to section 10 of chapter four hundred ninety-eight of the Acts of 1993 and any limitation on the total number of residential units to be allowed in Devens under said Reuse Plan and By-Laws shall not apply to any submission of a development plan for unified permitting in accordance with 974 CMR 1.00 et seq. for consideration and approval by the Devens Enterprise Commission created by section 11 of said chapter four hundred ninety-eight.”

DEC New Office Addition:



Devens Enterprise Commission

Published by Neil Angus · May 23 at 11:07 PM ·

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Check out our newest office addition! Our living wall is made from live natural moss specially designed to be maintenance free, not to mention the natural air filtration, mental health benefits, increased employee comfort, and social interaction it is generating (it's been a great conversation piece!). Stop by our office and check it out! [#DevensForward](#) [#biophilicdesign](#) [#practicewhatyoupreach](#) [#livingwall](#) [#indoorairquality](#) [#indoorplants](#)



Letter to MassDevelopment from Town of Ayer, Re: Moore Field Noise Complaint:

Office of the Select Board Office of the Town Manager



Town of Ayer | Ayer Town Hall | 1 Main Street | Ayer, MA 01432 | 978-772-8220 | www.ayer.ma.us

April 13, 2023

Sent Via Email Friday April 14, 2023

MassDevelopment – Devens
Meg Delorier, Acting Executive Vice President Devens Operations
33 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA 01434

Dear Ms. Delorier,

Over the past 20+ years, MassDevelopment has leased portions of the former military airfield runways to various racing clubs and organizations for autocross. These clubs include the Renegade Miata Club, BMW-Car Club of America, North Country Porsche Club, Track Club USA, Connecticut Valley Region Porsche Club, Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), Bay State Corvette Club, and NE-SVT Group.

The use of the Moore Air Field for autocross is negligible to the role MassDevelopment is entrusted with by the surrounding communities. Autocross does not promote job creation, added-value creation, property value escalation. Autocross does damage the Nashua River, which has been recently designated Wild and Scenic and the adjoining Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. While it does generate annual revenue to MassDevelopment, it also burns fossil fuels, generating CO₂, creates noise pollution from loud exhaust and tire screech to neighboring residents and businesses, compromising the local quality of life within Ayer and Devens communities.

The historic Moore Army Air Field is set on a high plateau upon the Nashua River and the adjoining Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. In Ayer, the planning and redevelopment of the Fitchburg Rd. corridor is progressing to develop a sustainable, healthy, safe, and livable neighborhood. This includes mixed-use district, including the proposed affordable 106-unit Chapter 40B Residential Development, "Ayer Commons" at 65 Fitchburg Road. In close proximity of the Airfield, are a number of Ayer's well-established neighborhoods along Groton School Rd., Park Street, Groton Shirley Rd., Washington St. Historic Hill District Neighborhood, and the Watt Phnom Serie Cambodian Temple. The prevailing wind current tends to carry the sonic impact of activities from the Air Field into Ayer's residential neighborhoods.

Ayer is a proud middle-class family township, and a designated Environmental Justice (EJ) community Saturdays and Sundays are important to Ayer families taking time to relax and re-charge in their own homes, yards, and neighborhoods. This time is continually disrupted by the consistent noise pollution of Autocross at the Moore Air Field for decades.

The New England Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) website reads, "On weekends the (Moore Air Field) runways are currently the largest and only centrally located venue in southern New England...for autocross competitions." The SCAA website "Autocross Locations" takes you directly to Moore Air Field venue: Autocross Locations | Pit Talk. Additional "Motorsports Venues/Race Tracks" are listed. All "motorsports venues" in New England, other than Moore Air Field, are just that, designed, located, permitted, and constructed as motorsports track destination facilities.

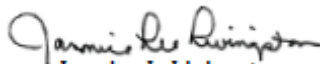
Moore Air Field was never designed/constructed as a "motorsports venue". It was designed/constructed for military purposes to serve an Army base that closed down decades ago. At the time of its construction, outer Fitchburg Rd. was open, undeveloped land. Ayer's residents had no say on potential adverse impacts to public health, public safety, environmental contamination, noise pollution, property-values, and quality-of-life, which are creating negative impacts to the health of its residents

The Town of Ayer desires to meet with our partners at MassDevelopment and the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) to begin phasing out Autocross land-use at Moore Air Field. We wish to attract, permit, and develop alternative uses that will vibrantly contribute to the health, safety, prosperity, opportunity, resiliency, and sustainable future for our valued Ayer and Devens neighborhoods plus the surrounding environment.

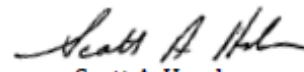
As we have laid out in this letter, the people of Ayer are directly impacted by certain activities at Moore Airfield. It is only fair that we, as a community, have input to what activities are allowed. We look forward to beginning a working relationship that will provide a beneficial solution for the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

The Ayer Select Board


Jannice L. Livingston
Chair


Shaun C. Copeland
Vice-Chair


Scott A. Houde
Clerk

Copy: Senator Jamie Eldridge
Representative Danillo Sena