

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 24, 2002

Present: Paul Emello, Joe Greene, Meg O'Brien, Bill Hoffman, John Sousa

Absent: Ralph Jones, Jennifer Page, Barry Winston, Tim Higgins, Bill Monahan

Note: there were not enough committee members present to have a quorum. Therefore, only discussions were held and no votes were taken.

Co-Chairman Paul Emello called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the January 17, 2002 meeting were approved.

All members had received and reviewed the Traffic Advisory Committee's Guiding Principles Report and had no comments.

Ralph Jones' January 24, 2002 e-mail sent to V21 members regarding school committee action was discussed. He mentioned that he had already received a call from one PTO representative who regards the School Committees proposed action as interference. Paul Emello had also received negative feedback regarding this issue. He noted that parents believe the current programs are for the most part very well run and believes the decision by the School Committee to administer and oversee these programs would be very unpopular. Ralph Jones also noted in his memo that we wait until Dr. Holland has had his meetings with the PTAs and PTOs before we take additional action. Bill Hoffman noted that the V21 committees involvement in this area is complete as we brought information from the survey (i.e. the public's interest in providing a more supportive environment for working parents) to the attention of the School Committee.

Candidates for the "Welcoming Newcomers" subcommittee were discussed. Joe Greene spoke to the town clerk, Dolores Keefe, who mentioned she would be interested. However if her office loses an employee due to the current budget shortfall the amount of time she would be available to help could be affected. Paul Emello mentioned that Jennifer Page had spoke to a real estate representative, Sue Pizzi, who would also be happy to serve. Meg O'Brien said that she would also serve on the subcommittee.

Planning the Welcoming Newcomers booklet was discussed.

Paul Emello had a draft copy of the Booklet for new students and will distribute copies to all members at the next meeting.

Meg O'Brien has been trying to contact Jane Howard from Arlington and expects to hear from her soon. Jane worked on Arlington's Vision 2020 committee and they have put together a similar booklet. Meg hopes to gather information about their process that we can use in developing ours.

Bill Monahan has contacted Minuteman Tech regarding the printing and is waiting to hear back from their Graphic Arts person to discuss printing services. He also found out from the Electric Department that they see about 700-800 "new households" per year. A challenge for our committee would be to translate this "new households" number down to a much lesser "newcomers" number.

Next meeting we will decide the composition of the subcommittee and a kickoff date for this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting: February 7, 2002 Fleet Room, Belmont Library

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Emello Co- Chairman