

**Vision Implementation Committee Minutes**  
**October 6, 2005, 7PM-9PM**  
**Accepted October 20, 2005**

**Present:** Austin Bliss, Donna Brescia, Vincent DeNovellis, Victoria Haase, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Ann Rittenburg

**Also in attendance:** Delores Keefe, Town Clerk

**Absent:** Sara Oaklander, Paul Santos, Paul Solomon

1. Administrivia:

- Ann will be recorder for the meeting
- Minutes from 9/29/05 meeting were reviewed. Jennifer Page moved approval of the minutes.

**VOTE:** by a unanimous vote of the committee, the minutes were approved.

2. Follow-up on "No Place for Hate" Forum

- Ann Rittenburg (School Committee representative) reported that she had spoken with Superintendent Peter Holland about the types of initiatives the Belmont Public Schools have in place to address some of the issues raised and implement some of the suggestions made at the No Place for Hate Forum. No systematic accounting of the various initiatives in place in the Belmont Public Schools currently exists. Ann reported that she, fellow School Committee colleague Kathy Miller (who attended the No Place for Hate Forum), and Peter Holland will work together with the various school administrators to generate an inventory of initiatives and then determine how best to share that inventory with the public. Ann will keep the VIC posted on this work.

3. Sustainable Belmont Forum to be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>

- A discussion was held about which members of the VIC would attend the Sustainable Belmont Forum. Meg and Victoria indicated their plans to attend. Paul Santos is a member of Sustainable Belmont and will be at the forum.

4. Continuing review of the Vision --its development, our work.

- The committee resumed the process begun in previous meetings, of both orienting new members to "A Working Vision for Belmont's Future" and working to identify the next pieces of work that the VIC should undertake.
- Committee members read and discussed copies of articles distributed at a previous meeting about the "Vision" process in Lexington and the "Vision" process in Concord.
- Jennifer Page (Chair) identified the challenge for the VIC as "picking the next piece to work on." Jennifer then identified a three part agenda for this year:
  1. Trying to find a way to bring the Vision back to the community. (This may involve both a reaffirmation and a "tweaking" of the Vision.)
  2. Focusing on a couple of goals.
  3. Revisiting some of the reports that the VIC has produced, in order to see what has happened with the reports' recommendations. (In this area, Job 1 was identified as digging back into the "Is Belmont Business Friendly" report to see which of the recommendations approved by the Selectmen are actually being implemented.)

- Jennifer then proposed that the committee engage in an exercise of examining the elements of the Vision statement. The committee worked systematically through the parts of the document entitled “A Working Vision for Belmont’s Future”: the introductory paragraph, the section entitled “Our Principles”, and finally the various areas under the section entitled “Our Common Goals.” The committee worked to identify the various key phrases in each part of the Vision. These phrases were listed on a large sheet of paper on the wall, and then the connections between the various elements were depicted by drawn lines. The exercise involved creating what Jennifer termed a “web” that reflects the interconnectedness of the Vision's elements.
- After the web was created, committee members were asked to reflect on what the web means to each of them.
- Committee members then worked to identify some of the key pieces of language in the Vision. “Small town atmosphere”, “desirable”, “resident involvement”, and “high quality town services” were all identified as key pieces of language.)
- Jennifer briefly reviewed the main work that the committee has done since its inception. The discussion then turned to what work the committee might do next.
- The next step in this process is for the committee to develop some criteria for deciding where it might go next. The committee will need to both brainstorm ideas for possible new initiatives, as well as decide on criteria for determining which new initiative(s) should be selected.
- Homework for next meeting: brainstorm criteria by which the VIC could decide on some new initiatives.
- Jennifer concluded this section of the meeting by answering questions from various committee members, which provided further history of the evolution of the VIC and reflection on the various types of models used in each of the initiatives the committee has already undertaken.

5. Other:

- At the conclusion of the meeting, Austin Bliss articulated a desire to see the committee develop a master plan including goals and a timeline. This will be discussed further in future meetings.
- The next meeting of the Vision Implementation Committee will be held on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer will not be present. Meg will chair the meeting.
- Motion to adjourn at 9:10PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Rittenburg  
Secretary Pro Tempore