

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES NOVEMBER 21, 2002
(Amended and approved Dec. 12, 2002)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martin Greco, Joe Greene, Matt Hausmann, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Barry Winston,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Higgins, Bill Hofmann, Paul Solomon

ALSO PRESENT: Dolores Keefe, Bill Engstrom

1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

The meeting started at approximately 7:05 P.M. Minutes of the last meeting were approved with the following changes:

1.2 A clarification was made in section 4.1: the proposed parking garage in Waverly square, which would include excavation for one underground level and a reconfiguration of Church Street, would extend over the train tracks.

1.2 A new section was added, 4.9, concerning a recommendation on snow removal.

2. REPORT: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GROUP (BEDPG) – Sara Oaklander, convener, reporting:

2.1 The group has met twice. Attendance has been very good.

2.2 Membership: To date there are approximately 15 members, of which only three are women. (In future appointments we might keep this in mind.)

2.3 The BEDPG would like to include someone from commercial development. Joe Greene, VIC, suggested having Joe DeStephano, developer of the Conrad Chandler and Togo developments, join the group. Meg O'Brien, VIC, also suggested that an architect might be helpful.

2.4 In its 2nd meeting the group determined that, in order to move forward, it needs to learn more, for example, about how tax revenues are assessed on businesses. Sara has arranged for Charlie Laverty, an assessor for the town, to come to the next meeting to discuss commercial tax issues. She will also arrange for a representative from the Long Range Financial Planning Task Force to make a presentation.

2.5 The BEDPG wants to make sure that the Mandate is clarified and understood by all parties before moving forward. That way, "Mandate Creep" can be avoided. They will meet with the Selectmen on Dec. 16 for this discussion and clarification.

2.6 The next BEDPG meeting will be November 26, 2002, from 7 to 9 P.M. in the Flett Room.

2.7 Sara noted that the BEDPG has not yet elected a permanent chair.

3. GUIDE FOR PLANNING GROUPS

3.1 Matt Hausmann presented the latest revision. The group offered a few final revisions and approved it as amended.

3.2 Matt suggested that the Planning Guide be considered a "living document," and should be flexible and changeable. The committee agreed.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

4.1 Arlington Vision 20/20: Regarding our interest in finding out how the Arlington 20/20 Vision group is organized, Jennifer reported that she has talked with Jane Howard, who is unable to come to any meetings on Thursdays. Jennifer took notes from her conversation with Jane and will ask Jane to correct them and then share them with VIC. Meg offered to bring in notes and information that she received from the Arlington 20/20 Committee. We agreed that these data might be enough to satisfy our questions; after studying these materials, we will pursue a meeting time with Jane that is not on a Thursday if that seems necessary.

4.2 Sara agreed to e-mail her notes from the BEDPG.

4.3 Jennifer noted that Kathy Miller of the School Committee has assured her that we will have a School Committee representative for the VIC "soon."

4.4 Joe Greene will work with the Newcomers Task Force. He and Jennifer will work on notifying members and they hope to move forward shortly.

4.6 Meg and Martin will be working with the Public Information & Communications Planning Group

(PICPG). Jennifer is still making contact with a couple of its appointed members, but it should be finalized soon.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

“Welcome to Belmont” booklets: Joe noted that the booklets are running out. The question is, at what point do we need to reprint and whom should we approach to pay? As a first step, we should take an inventory and review the distribution of the booklets. At some distribution points, there may not have been much demand. (We may wish to redistribute their booklets, since we know that some distribution points have been very active and have almost run out. In the future, we may want to limit the number of distribution areas in the town.) Once we have a relatively accurate inventory, we will need to determine how many books should be ordered. We agreed that once again we should first offer the realtors an opportunity to fund the next round of printing.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:07P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin J. Greco, Secretary Pro Tem