

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

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Minutes: March 17, 2015 (Draft)

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Members present: George Durante – chair, Natalie Leino - vice chair, Doug John, Don Mercier, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Mary Power, Allen Babroudi

Also in attendance: Carol Traeger who was appointed to serve on the VIC at the Selectmen's meeting on March 16 but who had not yet been sworn in as a member.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM.

1. The February minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
2. Natalie Leino proposed that we each introduce ourselves:

Carol Traeger introduced herself noting that she is a relatively new resident in Belmont having recently moved from Watertown to the Oakley area. She volunteered for the committee to be able to connect to the Town, meet new people and contribute her professional skills that are in the area of business process and marketing.

Jennifer Page, a founding member of the VIC introduced herself as a 35 year resident of the Town with a deep background in education having worked as a teacher, principal and as the head of teacher education at Lesley College (now Lesley University) where she also served as a VP.

Natalie Leino has served on the VIC for roughly 1 ½ years. She and her husband who are both attorneys, moved to Belmont from NYC. Natalie works as in house counsel for Tufts Healthcare and is parent to two young children.

Doug John, parent to 6 has lived in Belmont for over 27 years. Originally from Idaho, Doug works as a podiatrist and has served on the committee for over 3 years. His wife is a physics teacher at BHS.

Mary Power is a 26 year resident of the Town, parent of 4, two of whom have already gone through the Belmont School system, one at Chenery Middle School and one at BHS. She's recently retired from Harvard University where she was involved in community relations.

Paul Solomon served as a Town Meeting Member, and member and chair of the Belmont Board of Selectmen. He is a founding member of the VIC. He's lived in Belmont for 53 years. He mentioned his pleasure that we have new members and several younger members now serving on the VIC.

Donald Mercier is originally from New Hampshire and has lived in Belmont for 45 years. He worked in construction and engineering and at Bell labs.

Allen Babroudi is a recent appointee to the VIC. He has lived in Belmont for 25 years and is parent to twins at Chenery Middle School. He is an IT professional focused on user experience

who used to travel quite a bit and now travels less and can therefore be more involved in the Town. He is also a painter with a studio in Somerville.

George Durante has served on the VIC for about a year and a half and Chair since this past spring. He works in the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

3. Review of draft executive summary and report:

Mary introduced a discussion of the recommendations section of the draft and proposed a graphic to link the respondent's ranking of priorities and evaluation of progress. The VIC would like to make this addition and Natalie and Allen will develop the related chart showing ranking and performance feedback. The committee agreed that the Executive Summary should be shorter and that some of the material such as the methodology and the reoccurring comments summaries could be placed in the report section. The demographics section was also discussed with members noting that it could also be moved to the body of the report. Some members felt that reference to the high response rate should be retained in the Executive Summary. Jennifer, Doug and Mary will review the reoccurring comment summary and pass on to Paul for editing. George and Mary will shorten the Executive Summary and make correlating additions to the report section that will be followed by Appendix A and Appendix B. The goal is to finalize the document at the next meeting.

4. Report Distribution. The committee discussed the following modes of distribution:

- Presentation to Selectmen;
- Posting on the Town's website;
- Email distribution through the schools;
- Story in the Citizen Herald and BelmontonianPatch;
- Cable TV interview
- Town Meeting presentation;
- Town Day table with a flier on the report.

The VIC agreed that it would like to be able to present a PowerPoint summary to Town Meeting following a presentation at a Selectman's meeting. George will look into getting on agendas for both the Board of Selectmen's meeting and Town Meeting.

5. Committee Appointments: All agreed that it was beneficial to now have vacancies filled.

6. Next Meeting: In order to have a final report and presentation for the Board of Selectmen and Town meeting and to avoid scheduling our next meeting during the school break, the VIC agreed to move its meeting up to April 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Power, secretary pro tem