

2015 MAY 26 AM 8:56

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Minutes: April 9, 2015 (Draft)

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

1. The March minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
2. Carol Trager was warmly welcomed as our newest member. We are now at our maximum, with nine members.
3. The Survey: Review of draft executive summary and report:
The Committee reviewed the revisions of the report as it now stands. The graphs were greatly improved, the language of the Executive Summary flowed well, and in general members felt that the suggestions made in the previous meetings had been implemented.

One important issue was raised regarding the wording of a few of the respondents' "comments", all of which had been faithfully included in the report. In some instances, the comments made it easy to identify a particular individual referred to; and in some instances negative comments or comparisons were made regarding specific neighboring towns that were named. The Committee's concerns were two-fold: that the comments about individuals could be hurtful; and "the press" might use the comments about neighboring communities to show Belmont in a bad light – especially worrisome since these are communities with whom the Town collaborates in many ways and shares resources and services. Since the Committee had been committed to preserving all comments as written, the problem was discussed thoroughly. It was agreed that very modest alterations could be made that would preserve the overall meaning or intention of the comment in question while protecting the identity of the individuals and towns concerned.

Mary and Jennifer agreed to review the comments in question and make modest revisions as appropriate.

Carol offered to create a marketing plan to publicly distribute the report.

A motion was made by Paul that the committee accept the survey report 'A Working Vision' with proposed non-substantive edits, additions, and formatting as discussed in this April 9th, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

4. Report Distribution.

In our March meeting, the Committee had developed a comprehensive plan for the distribution of the report, including these steps:

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

It was determined that the Vision Committee would ask for approval from the Board of Selectmen to prepare a power point and present the findings of the report at May Town Meeting. Chair George Durante will contact Sami Baghdady, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, with the latest version of the report and request approval to advance with the distribution of the report.

5. Town Day

This event, which occurs annually on the Saturday before Memorial Day, provides the Vision Committee with an opportunity to begin broadcasting/publicizing the annual Meet Belmont, a project of our Committee. Town Day this year is on Saturday, May 16. Jennifer circulated a sign-up sheet, asking members to sign up to volunteer for one of the time slots at Town Day. She will provide the flyers and will offer advice and encouragement to the VIC volunteers.

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.