

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015  
(DRAFT)

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA

2015 JUL -2 PM 2:10

Members present: George Durante, Chair; Natalie Leino, Vice Chair; Doug John, Jennifer Page, Mary Power, Paul Solomon, Carol Trager  
Members absent: Allen Babroudi, Don Mercier  
Guests: Rep. Dave Rogers; Sara Oaklander (for part of the meeting)

I Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Durante at 7:06 p.m.

II Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of April 9 were approved, with a correction of the spelling of Ms. Trager's last name.

III Distribution of the Survey Report : Update and Next Steps

Chair George Durante reminded the Committee that Selectman Sami Baghdady had requested that the Committee not release the report nor present it to Town Meeting until he (Mr. Baghdady) had reviewed it. George reported that Mr. Baghdady has not yet reviewed it. This is understandable, since the Selectmen are very busy with Town Meeting matters; but it is also unfortunate since (a) we will lose an opportunity for good publicity if we cannot present at Town Meeting; (b) such reports have a short "shelf life", once the survey is over; and (c) we owe it to our constituents – the 1100 people who took the survey – to give them the results. Mr. Durante indicated that he has now sent the report to the entire Select Board (not just Mr. Baghdady) and will email the full board, asking for permission to release it and, if possible, to announce the report at Town Meeting.

Discussion turned to distribution, once we have "permission" to do so. At that time, Carol Trager will make suggestions about distribution in addition to those listed in the minutes of April 9.

IV Next Vision Committee Initiative(s): A Proposal

Chair George Durante proposed a strategy for the Committee to decide what initiative(s) VIC might undertake next. He suggested that the Committee

break into three “teams” for brainstorming ideas, and that each team focus on and review one section of the Vision statement, and generate ideas based on that section of the Vision. The team would also review the Survey Report for ideas. Each team would report back to George by June 9, with their suggestions; each proposed project should be described in two or three sentences.

The teams were formed: (asterisk indicates team captain)

“Quality of Life” – Carol Trager\* , Allen Babroudi, Doug John

“Character of the Town”: George Durante\*, Jennifer Page, Don Mercier

“Sense of Community” – Mary Power\*, Natalie Leino, Paul Solomon

#### V Town Day

Jennifer Page thanked the members for their wonderful help at Town Day. Approximately 350 Meet Belmont flyers were distributed during the event.

#### VI Meet Belmont

Sara Oaklander joined the group for a discussion of the future of Meet Belmont. Working together, Sara and Jennifer have been coordinating the event for the past 10 years or so, with each of them taking responsibility for some areas, but communicating regularly. They now feel that it is time to build a new team to take over. They described the various aspects of their work, including preparing flyers, managing the budget, arranging for publicity, interfacing with many parts of the Town’s government and schools on administrative details, and working with the approximately 100 exhibitors. The event has been embraced and supported by the Town. Both organizers feel that new leadership should be found. This would be an ideal year for Sara and Jennifer to begin to “guide” new leadership.

A central question to be decided is whether Meet Belmont should (a) remain a project closely tied to and under the purview of the Vision Implementation Committee, (b) become an event organized by a Town department, or (c) be an event organized by a group entirely independent of either VIC or the Town?

Discussion on this question followed. It was agreed that Meet Belmont is an event that is central to the Vision, and that the position of VIC as an “official” (appointed) Town committee drives much of the cooperation of the Schools and Town Departments. As such, the Vision Committee

members agreed that Meet Belmont should remain within the purview of the VIC. But it was also clear that leadership at this time may need to come from outside the Committee as no one (or two) members is able/willing to take on the coordinator's role. Thus, it was agreed that VIC members would assist with outreach in an effort to recruit new volunteers who would be interested in leadership roles with Meet Belmont. Jennifer and Sara will also draft some articles for the newspaper, seeking volunteers. It was also agreed that we would endeavor to emerge from this transition in leadership with a relationship between Meet Belmont and the VIC similar to that of Sustainable Belmont to VIC in SB's first decade or so: With VIC providing oversight and guidance, but the leadership of Meet Belmont not necessarily an appointed member of the Committee.

#### VII Summer Meeting Schedule

It was agreed that we will meet in June, on our regular schedule – the third Tuesday of the month – June 16. George Durante will reserve a room and notify us. In the interim, he will poll members about their availability in July and August.

#### VIII Goals for next Meeting:

- Nominations and election of chair and vice chair
- Continuing: distribution of survey
- Sharing ideas on next projects for VIC
- Continuing: examination of Meet Belmont leadership

IX Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.