

2015 NOV 20 PM 4: 07

Vision Implementation Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

George Durante called VIC meeting to order at 7:02 PM on September 15, 2015 in Room 4 of Town Hall.

The following people were present: George Durante, Chair, Natalie Leino, Vice Chair, Donald Mercier, Jennifer Page, Allen Barboudi and Carol Trager.

The Minutes of the August 18, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved after some corrections.

**Survey Report Status**

George Durante reported that he had met with Town Administrator David Kale and had requested approval of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to release the survey; he had also spoken with Jim Williams at Meet Belmont. A response is still forthcoming. Jennifer Page suggested that a formal letter of request be sent. Donald Mercier suggested that George and/or other Committee members attend Selectmen's hours, or attend the BOS September 21 meeting and speak directly during the time reserved for questions from Town residents. The Committee wishes to convey that it feels responsible and accountable to those who completed the survey, and has in fact received a few questions as to its status.

George consequently let the Committee know that he was unable to attend the September 21 meeting but would make plans to continue to pursue approval to release and survey, possibly attending the next BOS meeting where questions are on the agenda.

**Belmont Talks**

The Committee members planned to discuss potential speakers, dates and venues for the first Belmont Talks; however, some pivotal members of the group were missing and their input is needed. Allen Barboudi reported that Belmont High School has some kind of speaker series and wondered if we should align our efforts. Jennifer then remarked on a talk being given at the High School, "The Way of Boys" with Anthony Rao, which is being sponsored by the Belmont Health and Wellness Committee; also, the Library's Movie Nights. With these and other programs currently in the works, the conversation turned to the objective of the Belmont Talks, which is to highlight the contributions and expertise of Belmont residents and build a sense of community.

The conversation proceeded with an exploration of various types of formats and target audiences: community gatherings (e.g., the "winter equivalent of the Payson Park Concert Series); multi-generational; alternating family and adult; etc. but ultimately it was agreed that the Committee's

purpose is to investigate the possibility of producing such events but not to run them; we need first and foremost to find out how much is already underway and determine whether there are gaps.

This discussion inspired the Committee to ask further questions: how do, or can, Belmont residents find out about all the events and programs going on in Belmont? ... and, What is the best way to facilitate coordination of a central calendar?

Allen suggested that the Library might have the resources. Donald Mercier suggested a conversation with the Belmont Citizen, which already publicizes some programs weekly. The Committee agreed that George should invite the publisher of the Citizen to the October meeting for a preliminary discussion. Natalie Leino will also investigate availability of the Senior Center for the possibility of regular programming.

### **Town Government Class**

There have been no further steps taken on this. George and Jennifer will pursue.

### **Meet Belmont Report**

Jennifer presented her report on Meet Belmont, which was held on August 23 at the Chenery Middle School.

- More than 338 individuals, representing 160 families, attended
- 100 reported being owners, and 59 were renters
- Four families had not yet moved to Belmont
  - Six have lived in Belmont for less than one week
  - Seventy one (71) have lived in Belmont for one year or less

Additional and other ways of collecting data on attendees were discussed, including using a clicker to count attendees. We might also consider asking how attendees learned about Meet Belmont, and leverage various Listservs and the Belmont Parents Group to increase awareness of the event.

Jennifer also confirmed the ongoing development of a Meet Belmont leadership succession plan. There has been some interest but thus far no one person has come forward and expressed the desire to lead. We were reminded that our charge is to help the Town embrace its agreed-upon values and engage residents to assume leadership roles. Assuming that no member of the existing Committee wishes to succeed Jennifer in the role, how can we maintain a sense of ownership of Meet Belmont? A few options were suggested: find a new Chair and nominate that individual to the Vision Implementation Committee; ask the BOS to formalize the existence of the Meet Belmont planning group.

Natalie suggested that in any case a prestigious title be conferred on the co-chairs; i.e., "Meet Belmont Co-Chairs," which might increase interest among potential leaders who would seek recognition for their contributions. This discussion is to be continued.

### **Next Meeting Goals**

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7pm in Town Hall Conference Room 4.

- a) Status of Survey Report distribution
- b) Belmont High School (PTO)-sponsored programming
- c) Senior Center calendar and availability
- d) Meet with Belmont Citizen Herald
- e) Meet Belmont succession plan status
- f) Update on Town Government Class

### **Motion to adjourn**

Natalie Leino moved to adjourn at 8:56pm; Jennifer Page seconded. The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Trager