

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, December 15, 2015
ROOM 4, TOWN HALL 7:00 P.M.
MEETING MINUTES

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Present: Natalie Leino, Vice Chair (presiding); Allen Babroudi, Doug John, Donald Mercier, Jennifer Page, Mary Power, Carol Trager, Paul Solomon
Absent: George Durante, Chair

Natalie Leino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the October 23 meeting were amended to include Paul Solomon as a member. (He will sit with the committee until his successor is appointed.) Minutes were approved as amended.

2. Report on Meeting with the Selectmen on November 9:

Natalie, joined by other VIC members who attended, described the meeting with the Selectmen: At the meeting George provided an overview of the survey and its broad findings. The meeting was positive. Each member of the BOS commented that the feedback in the report was valuable and would be useful to many of the committees, offices and groups in town. The VIC's early exploration of a Town-wide Calendar, based on the survey participants' desire to be more connected and to know more about what is happening was favorably discussed. It was agreed with the BOS that the information should be widely shared given its valuable feedback about ways to make the Town stronger.

3. Distribution of the report:

Since the meeting with the BOS, the Town has posted the report on the VIC page of the Town website. Jennifer informed the committee of a page that was inserted into the report on the Town website link, which erroneously states that the Selectmen received the report on November 9, 2015 (It was received in April, 2015) and also indicates that the report is for information purposes only. The VIC committee members shared their surprise that a statement had been inserted and that it was inaccurate. Jennifer indicated that George had been in touch with the Town about correcting the error or removing the statement altogether.

Jennifer reported that she had prepared copies of the report that will be available at the Library and the Senior Center where members of the public can read them. The VIC also discussed the best way to get the report to Town Meeting Members and chairs of Town committees. It was agreed that we would draft an introductory letter containing a link to the report for the Town Clerk to distribute. The committee also discussed sharing the report with the Belmontonian, Citizen-Herald and it was agreed that Carol would coordinate with George on this outreach. Jennifer had contacted the school superintendent to set up a meeting to share the report and thank him for school department's support with Survey Monkey. Mary and Doug offered to attend depending on scheduling. The VIC agreed that George should contact Mr. Kale regarding distribution to Town departments.

The VIC discussed other groups to whom we should send the report: Additional contacts include: Social Media (e.g. Yahoo chat groups) and electronic media (e.g. Media Center); Belmont Chamber of Commerce; citizen groups and clubs such as those that attend Meet Belmont.

4. Town-wide Calendar Project:

Unfortunately, Franklin from the Belmontonian was unable to join us as planned. However, several Committee members had researched various Town Calendars, and it was their judgment that such a project could be launched in Belmont. Franklin is interested in working on/ hosting it. Discussion clarified some aspects of the project: It would probably be limited to listing town events; any viable non-profit group could post events. The VIC discussed what types of events might be included such as arts and cultural events in town, sports and recreation events. Some types of events need more thought such as fund raising events for local nonprofits and church-related events as examples. A few questions were raised: would advertising be permitted and would calendar listings be "self-posted" or curated by the host (such as the Belmontonian)?

5. Social appreciation event for volunteer committees of the Town

This idea was proposed by Allen as a way to bring community members together. VIC members were very interested in discussing this idea further

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2016!! (Allen for minutes)

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Page
Secretary Pro Tem