

VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2008

Members Present: Austin Bliss, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Sara Oaklander, Al Rubin, Kirk Hazlett, Paul Santos

Members absent:, Joseph Crugnale, Anne Rittenburg, Jay Szklut, Vinnie DeNovellis

1. March 27 Minutes

Jennifer Page submitted a modification to the minutes. A second modification was made to recognize Joseph as notetaker. Minutes approved unanimously as amended.

2. Comprehensive Plan - Jennifer Fallon & Jay Szklut

Jennifer & Jay visited us to begin the process of getting feedback on issues, concerns, priorities for the creation of a comprehensive plan. They figure it will take approximately two years to develop the plan and it will need a lot of community involvement. For their first pass, they are visiting twelve different wards and committees.

This is a dynamic period in Belmont's history, a lot of questions, a lot of studies, a lot of opportunity and it is time to bring it all together and think about the future. Haven't done one since the 1960s. Wellesley does every five years or so. Goal is to move from 'reacting' to planning..

Very preliminary stage. Currently working on RFP for consulting services, expect to have funding. First year: develop scope & do public outreach process / input gathering. Second phase will be writing the actual plan.

They provided some handouts to stimulate discussion and emphasized it was not to put any boundaries on anything. Need us to ID the broader issues in town so it can be put in the RFP / as a scope of work for a consultant.

For example... where should we be focusing economic development & what type? Are the residential definitions in the zoning appropriate? Does the town want to allow more density? How does affordable housing figure into these equations? Do we want the centers to be pedestrian oriented or automobile oriented? Fundamental question is 'what do you want your community to look like in 25 years and how are we getting there?'. Goal is to also react as a community, rather than just as a local neighborhood.

We then discussed the possibility of including the following things in the comprehensive plan:

- There is a large parcel of privately held land at the Belmont Country Club
- Infrastructure investment.

- Impact of climate change be considered, e.g. flooding, shade cover, energy sources, etc. Also supporting the movement to pedestrians and bicycles.
- Need to integrate Sustainable Belmont's Climate Action Plan
- Need to take note of regional context.
- Need to address parking in town. E.g. is surface parking a good use of our land? How many cars do we want to allow for new development?
- Regionalization, can we merge services with other towns?
- Need to work on the financial challenges the town will/is facing.

Jennifer Fallon encouraged us to read through the handouts and send comments to Jay. Happy to hear anything, discussion is scattered, but that is OK, because that is where they are at right now. She assured us that this is just an introductory meeting and they will be coming back.

The committee wished Jennifer a happy birthday!

3. Meet Belmont Update

Date is confirmed for August 21! Jennifer will prepare scripts to help recruit a team of people to work on the project. Goal being to stimulate a self-sustaining group.

4. Recruitment Efforts – New Committee Members

Paul Solomon announced he was appointed by the Board of Selectman to serve on our committee for a one year term. The Selectman suggested Paul also solicit former members of the Warrant and School committee to join the Vision Committee. With that in mind, Paul called Kathy Miller, who was a long time member of the School Committee. We'll also try to look for someone who was a former member of the Warrant Committee. Jennifer suggested Joanna and Paul offered to call her. Jennifer also suggested Sue Pew.

5. Update on visit with Glenn Clancy and Chief McLaughlin

Paul Solomon & Sara Oaklander met with Glenn and Chief McLaughlin to ask them to publicize the anti-idling campaign and the green building. Glenn will be handing out copies to anyone who is doing renovations and was very supportive. The Chief will write an article and will produce some talking points. Paul pointed out they need to model good behavior themselves, and it became clear that it was a challenge because of the equipment in the vehicles. Policemen will hand out hangtags at school dropoff/pickup locations. Jennifer suggested a follow-up visit in a few months to hear how the officers reacted and see if they had any questions.

6. Online Calendar Options

Town is not successfully running this. Does the VIC want to do it, as it is a great function to tie the town together? Discussed but unresolved.

7. Meeting Schedule / Frequency

Kirk suggested that we go to two meetings a month, and that things are dropping off the radar screen between meetings. Thought process is that it will put shorter deadlines on us for between meeting activities, and thus they will stay more salient and we'll get more done.

Decided: We'll plan for meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month, starting in May. Kirk will also create a final version of the meeting minutes schedule and a minutes schedule. Jennifer will arrange to make sure the library is available those dates.

Kirk will also pick an alternate date for the October 9th date.

And in June, he will call for vacation schedules.

8. Vice Chair

We need a backup – Austin Bliss was nominated.

Meeting adjourned. 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Austin Bliss