

Vision21 Implementation Committee Minutes
April 3, 2003
Accepted May 15, 2003

Members Present: Joe Greene, Matt Hausmann, Tim Higgins, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Barry Winston
Members Absent: Jenny Fallon, Martin Greco, Bill Hofmann

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by the Chair, Jennifer Page.
2. **Review of Minutes.** We will approve the March 18 minutes at our next meeting; Jennifer did not get them circulated in time for people to read them in advance.
3. **Email from Jim Graves.** Jim Graves sent an email to Jennifer that she shared with the committee. The committee agreed that per Jim's suggestion quarterly status reporting of the recommendations is a good idea; mid-May should be the first status report. The report should include the recommendation(s), progress over the last three months, and objectives for the next three months. Additionally, Jim raised the issue of why don't people support local businesses more. The committee agreed that this falls under BEDPG and possibly under the business advocacy work group. Joe suggested the need to move on business advocacy; Sara commented that this work group is just getting started. Jennifer will reply to Jim, thanking him for his letter and sharing our thoughts about the issues he raised.
4. **Email from Sue Bass.** Sue wrote, thanking the Committee for its help on their Trapelo Road presentation and asking us for suggestions how the Belmont Citizens' Forum can follow up on their April 1 event. The committee agreed to suggest that the BCF should ask the Planning Board for suggestions about how they can further support the Planning Board process. The group felt that the Citizens Forum program on Tuesday evening was well done and complementary to the current Planning Board process. Jennifer will respond to Sue's letter and suggest that Sue to contact Andy McClurg (and copy Joe Barrell).
5. **Our Next Endeavor: The Environment.** Jennifer and Paul suggested that the Vision Committee consider its next initiative, and suggested that we next focus on the environment. Paul shared information on a session he attended at the Kennedy School of Government where they discussed the budget crisis and how it may lead to new and innovative thinking. For example, they have brought in a company to look at energy savings where the company identifies opportunities and shares in the savings. Paul has already contacted this company with a view to having them look at Belmont's public buildings. Another idea, following Arlington's lead, is to have Belmont's vehicles be more environmentally efficient, such as the new hybrids.

Paul believes that the Vision 21 Implementation Committee is the right place for launching an environmental program in Belmont that would lead to cost savings.

Should we take this on as the next initiative for the Vision Committee? The committee agreed that we should do so.

How do we proceed?

- Sara said there are a number of citizens that would have a strong interest and are very knowledgeable. She suggested a brainstorming session with a number of these types of people. The group concurred.
 - Joe said folks need to consider the ROI on such things. He also commented that we need to keep in mind that certain town vehicles need to do certain things. Not all of them can be replaced with hybrid cars. It was suggested that the consolidation of the public works department provides an opportunity for some good savings.
 - Jennifer remarked that VIC had already identified the environment within our proposed initiatives to start with, and the list was approved by the Selectmen; she shared ideas about the environment generated almost two years ago, noting how much our thinking has evolved about the issue since then. Most of our earlier thinking had focused on community education.
 - Meg suggested that four areas be considered: community education; planning for the future; town operations; schools (operations and education).
 - Jennifer asked if we should take the same approach as we did with the Business groups, doing a substantial piece of work ourselves and then developing a committee from that. Tim suggested no, because we know the question now; with the business issue we did not.
 - Paul suggested the question for the framing: what can the Town do that is environmentally friendly while at the same time saves money.
 - Sara suggested that we learn from BEDPG.
 - Paul will draft a memorandum/position paper. Sara suggested that at the next meeting we think about process. Jennifer suggested that everyone provide input to Paul.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17. As it is Passover, we will have limited attendance. The meeting after that is during the first week of Town Meeting, Thursday May 1; we will keep the date on the schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Hausmann, Secretary Pro Tem