

Vision 21 Implementation Committee
Minutes –July 15, 2004
Approved August 12, 2004

Members Present: Victoria Haase, Meg O'Brien, Sara Oaklander, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Barry Winston
Members Absent: Joe Greene, Matt Hausmann, Tim Higgins, Bill Hofmann, Diane Stafford
Also present: Jenny Fallon, Delores Keefe

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by the Chair, Jennifer Page.
2. Minutes. The minutes from May 6, May 17 and June 3, 2004 were approved as edited.
3. Jenny Fallon reported that progress is being made on the Town energy conservation project for our municipal buildings. An ad-hoc committee led by Paul Solomon had started the process of choosing an energy services company. Last spring it was decided that, because of the scope of the project, a Building Committee under the aegis of Town Meeting should be appointed. The Building Committee is now up to speed and will hold interviews on August 11th as part of the selection process for one of the two energy engineering firms that responded to the Belmont RFP. The selected firm will complete a detailed energy audit and make final recommendations for the project. (Note: ESCo recommends and implements energy saving changes for which payback from energy savings is guaranteed by the company over the life of the contract.) Barbara Hagg and Susan Freiner have provided financial inputs.

The Belmont Housing Authority would like to join with the Town in the ESCO project. However, this would delay the Town project. The Committee will investigate whether there would be benefits to pursuing a joint project. As an alternative, BHA might collaborate with the Watertown Housing Authority which is currently interested in an energy audit.

4. Sara Oaklander reported that BEDPG is in the process of winding up its projects. "Business Advocacy" will be the topic for the next meeting. Sara attended and benefited from workshops about downtown centers with Tim Higgins and Jeff Wheeler.

Paul Solomon suggested a joint meeting of BEDPG and VIC to determine a beneficial course of action for the Town and the business community.

5. Shared Resources. A discussion followed about the need for the Town to support the efforts of volunteer committees. It was suggested that there was an opportunity for the Town to benefit from sharing resources across departments and committees. While one example is survey software, there may be any number of other examples. The question is how to develop oversight of this resource sharing. Jennifer, Meg, and Sara might write a letter to Mel Kleckner asking how to do this

6. Meg O'Brien reported that the Planning Board is taking up the issue of the moratorium on teardowns of single family homes and their replacement with two family homes.

7. The Vision 21-fostered Belmont Neighbors Network will have a fair to welcome newcomers to Belmont on Tuesday, August 31, 6-8 PM. "Meet Belmont" will expand from last year's location in the Assembly Room throughout the lower level of the library and the Claflin Room. Vision 21 will man the registration tables and will pass out the Welcome to Belmont booklets and Vision 21 statements.

We also plan to have applications to volunteer for Town Committees on Delores' voter registration table. It was suggested that the date of application and temporary Town committees be added on the form and to a form on the website.

The Environmental Fair will also have a table.

8. The Environmental Fair planning is going well. Jennifer Page, Jenny Fallon and Victoria Haase are among the organizers. Trey Klein has designed a logo for the fair featuring, air, fire, water, and earth. Invitations are being sent to exhibitors. Special presentations will likely take place in the small gym. Planning for food includes 1. Lunches for exhibitors and volunteers and 2. Snack bar for attendees.

Substantial grants are needed to cover the budget of \$7,000-\$8,000. The Belmont banks will be approached for funding. Various fundraising approaches were discussed. It was suggested that the fundraising letter detail the intended results of the fair.

Many volunteers will be needed on fair day.

9. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg O'Brien