

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES, January 9, 2003
[Accepted as written, January 23, 2003]

Members present: Jenny Fallon, Martin Greco, Matt Hausmann, Tim Higgins, Bill Hofmann, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon

Members absent: Joe Greene, Barry Winston

Also Present: Delores Keefe

Convening the Meeting:

Jennifer Page called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

- 1. Organizational Matters:** Minutes from December 12, 2002 were amended and approved.
- 2. Jenny Fallon was welcomed.** She is a former School Committee member who will serve as the School Committee liaison to the Vision 21 Implementation Committee (VIC).
- 3. Update on the BEDPG**
 - 3.1 Sara mentioned the change in mandate that the BEDPG presented at the Selectmen's meeting in December. This revision expands the mandate beyond revenue growth for the Town.
 - 3.2 Sara Oaklander and Jennifer Page were interviewed by the Boston Globe about the work Belmont is undertaking to strengthen its business community. It is part of our mission to educate the public about the issues and undertakings of the VIC. The article appeared in the Northwest Weekly section today.
- 4. Long-range Planning**
 - 4.1 Paul Solomon reported that the Selectmen have mandated the Planning Board to carry out the long-range planning function. They will take the lead rather than the VIC. The Planning Board meetings on Tuesday, January 28 and Tuesday, February 25 will be important to setting the stage for this. Mark your calendars now!
 - 4.2 A question was raised as to whether this would be a comprehensive plan, or more limited in scope such as an economic development plan. Some support was voiced for a comprehensive plan, although the \$100,000 cost is a significant issue given the Town's financial issues.
- 5. Review of Recommendations to Selectmen**
 - 5.1 Jennifer Page requested that the VIC review the 8 recommendations that she had drafted with
 - 5.2 Tim Higgins' help. The VIC discussed each recommendation in turn. Almost all were approved by the Committee with minor rewordings.
 - 5.3 The discussion recognized a number of issues with the recommendations.
 - 5.4 Some of the recommendations are strongly worded.
 - 5.5 Some propose to change processes or practices that may please some and displease others.
 - 5.6 In this light, it would be helpful to have a townwide plan that provides the context for some of the proposed recommendations. However, given financial constraints, we may need to encourage the Selectmen to move forward in those areas that do not have a financial impact and expect that a multi-year planning effort to provide the framework will be undertaken in the next few years.
- 6. Next steps**

The edited report will be circulated for review by VIC members and presented to the Selectmen at a meeting within the next several weeks.
- 7. Next Meeting:** We will meet on Thursday, January 23, 7:00 P.M., in the Library Staff Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg O'Brien
Secretary Pro Tem