

Vision 21 Implementation Committee
Minutes - February 15, 2007
Adopted (as amended) 3/15/05

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Members Present: Austin Bliss, Donna Brescia, Meg O'Brien, Sara Oaklander, Jennifer Page, Paul Santos

Members absent:, Ann Rittenburg, Paul Solomon, Jay Szklut, Vinnie DeNovellis, Kirk Hazlett

1. Administrivia

Meg O'Brien served as recorder. The minutes of the January 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

Next Meetings of the VIC will be on:

March 1	mini-group meeting	March 15	VIC meeting
April 5	mini-group meeting	April 19	VIC meeting

Minutes of January 18, 2007 were approved.

2. Reports and Announcements

2.1 Annual Report of the Vision Implementation Committee

Chair, Donna Brescia, distributed copies of the annual report which will become part of the Town's Annual Report.

2.2 Diversity in Belmont

What is Belmont doing to support diversity?

Proposed Consortium. It was proposed that the VIC meet with Belmont Against Racism, the Human Rights Commission and other groups in town to exchange ideas about what each group is doing. VIC discussed the lack of diversity in Belmont, noting that a critical mass and sense of community may be lacking in Belmont and some other suburban towns that makes Belmont appear less welcoming.

April is Fair Housing month. BAR is sponsoring a talk by Nancy McArdle of Harvard's Civil Rights Project on April 26th. She has done research at with David Harris of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston on the differences in home ownership by race throughout the Boston metro area, testing whether or not affordability can explain differences in racial settlement patterns.

2.3 Sustainable Belmont

2.3.1 Co-Chairs of Sustainable Belmont, Jan Kruse and Heather Tuttle met with the VIC to report on their activities during the past year. Sustainable Belmont is an official subgroup of VIC. Deb Lockett, who heads up the Climate Action Plan (CAI) for Belmont also attended.

The accomplishments of Sustainable Belmont are impressive. It was proposed that at our next meeting, we might consider giving the co-chairs automatic authority to have VIC co-sponsor or endorse any program organized by one of the VIC task forces.

2.3.2 Anti-Idling campaign: SB reported that Dr. Holland and the principals are working on the anti-idling campaign. Information about anti-idling will be placed in the PTO newsletters. There will also be information provided to parents about safe walks to school for their children.

The anti-idling campaign will also be rolled out to the houses of worship through the Belmont Religious Council. Small business owners may be approached about this also.

SB can also consider educating people to alternative ways to stay warm in a car with minimal engine idling.

2.3.4 Impact of IPPC Conference in Paris that found that global warming is largely due to human activity. No direct effect on Belmont behavior has been observed

2.3.5 Sustainable Belmont would like the Electric Light Dept. to undertake conservation by providing a green power option for households that want it and pay a bit more for it. The Light Dept. will be asking for comments from the public about the mix of potential energy sources at a meeting on Feb 26th at 7 PM. Unfortunately, this date conflicts with the Kick Off Speaker for Diversity Week at the high school.

The meeting could possibly be rescheduled or the VIC and Sustainable Belmont could meet with the Light Dept representatives at another time.

The VIC would be happy to support Sustainable Belmont when they go before the Selectmen for a Sustainable Building Design.

4.1 Town Meeting. It was noted that Town Meeting is scheduled for April 23, 25 and April 30 if needed), with the Warrant presentation expected to take place the week before.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg O'Brien
Secretary Pro Tempore