

- Vision 21 Implementation Committee
- Meeting Notes
- March 27, 2008
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- Members Present: Jennifer Page, Sara Oaklander,~Vincent DeNovellis,~Joseph Crugnale,~Paul Solomon,~Paul Santos,~Austin Bliss,~Alfred Rubin~
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- Members Absent: Kirk Hazlett~
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- In light of the absence of Kirk there was a short discussion over who would act as chair. Austin Bliss was volunteered, and he accepted this role.
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- February Minutes
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- First order of business is the February minutes. Within the minutes are a few misspellings of names and some incorrectly labeled dates. These corrections are noted, and there is a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes are approved.
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- Overview of Sub-Committees
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- Sub Committee Proposals. Goal is to re-examine the summaries and recommendations for the future actions of the subcommittees voted upon at the Feb.3 retreat.. Questions to be answered are to move the subcommittees forward and how to divide the workloads.
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- 1st) Newcomers Initiatives / Welcoming committee
- Jennifer Page has prepared this committee's summary. Meet Belmont and the Newcomer's booklet are the main focuses of this committee. Some of the initiatives that have in the past been carried out by this group, such as the block parties, have been difficult to continue as people who used to lead them have left the group.
 - The upcoming Meet Belmont planning is underway. Feedback from the exhibition participants will be sent out soon. Subcommittee is trying to decide how to expand the event beyond just updating its book. New ideas to expand include:
 - 1.) Contacting participants to learn about the effectiveness of the event
 - 2.) Setting up the event differently, with additional online content
 - 3.) Involving more people in the planning process
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- 2nd) Sustainable Belmont
- Paul Santos has prepared this committee's summary. The focus of this subcommittee is heavily tied to the Climate Action Plan (CPA). This report, currently being prepared by a Committee of Sustainable Belmont, will have recommendations for the town on how to work towards goals in sustainability. Though responsibility for implementing the actions of the CPA will not fall upon

the VIC but on Sustainable Belmont, the VIC will not be able to accurately predict its actions until the report is submitted. These actions may include writing letters to the Town Selectmen recommending actions of the Climate Action Plan or helping to facilitate the public comment period the VIC will require. This will not happen for several months.

- - 3rd) Business Friendly
 - Sara Oaklander has prepared the summary for this Committee. There are 14 existing recommendations for improving the business climate of Belmont from the Business Initiative and BEDPG.
 - The initial focus of this committee should be to examine these original recommendations. From these recommendations the VIC could be able to better gauge the current status of the original initiatives, and then look at next possible steps. Once an assessment is done, the VIC will have a better idea of what actions have been taken in response to the recommendations, what their success has been, and what further actions can be taken.
 - Some of the ideas suggested by the VIC during the meeting were actually already addressed in the original 14 points, which highlighted their scope and demonstrated their need to be revisited. An efficient and effective way of identifying and communicating with businesses in Belmont seemed to be one of the most important next steps.

- - 4th Vision Outreach
 - Kirk Hazlett had been preparing this, but as he was absent Austin presented what he believed Kirk had been working towards. It appeared that the two major initiatives to promote The Vision so far have not generated the hoped for attention. These initiatives were:

- - 1.) Display setups in different locations advertising “The Vision”
 - 2.) A photo contest on the Vision

- - Rethinking the process to build the initiative will be a focus of this committee. One of the major factors limiting its outreach abilities is the lack of awareness of the Vision in Belmont. More members of the community should be engaged in working towards the Vision. Some ideas mentioned for improving Vision outreach were:
 - 1.) Linking the Vision to tangible things/goals.
 - 2.) Picking out the examples of when the vision has been quoted.
 - 3.) Bringing the Vision into town Hall, and promoting it as something town workers should consider in their work.
 - 4.) Re-evaluating how to spend our resources to advertise the Vision.

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- Self Capacity Analysis
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- Throughout the updates of the committees, the question of what actions the VIC would take to move each committee forward continually surfaced. Following the updates, these questions led the group to wonder if two hours a month was sufficient enough to develop the four committees. The VIC decided to delay further points on the night's agenda, and instead address its members' ability to commit themselves to VIC initiatives as well as their abilities to fulfill leadership roles within it. Some of the questions which surfaced were:

- - 1.) What are the activities the VIC do in between the meetings?
 - 2.) Is just 2 hours enough?
 - 3.) Should the group meet more than once a month?
 - 4.) Are there enough members who are willing to fulfill leadership/champion roles in committees?
 - 5.) Should there be additional members?
 - 6.) Should the responsibilities and expectations of VIC members be more clearly articulated to prospective candidates?

- After proposing these questions to itself, the VIC agreed that each member would try to find at least one prospective member before the next meeting.

- April Meeting Agenda

- Meet Belmont

- Membership Recruitment

- 2008 Planning vs. Capacity

- Remaining Agenda Items and Upcoming Actions

- Meet Belmont

- Jennifer will talk to Superintendent about the scheduling of Meet Belmont. She will follow up on Monday on the status of it scheduling after a Friday meeting between the principle of High School and the Superintendent on Friday. The Newcomer's Initiative / Welcoming Committee will also begin to establish a team of newcomers to help organize upcoming Meet Belmont.

- Jennifer will send out a list of those who answered the survey form the Meet Belmont event in August '07, and a list of talking points.

- Then the committee members will contact those on the list and ask them to become involved in the planning for the next Meet Belmont.

- Movement to Adjourn

