

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 2010
2010

Approved, June 24,

Present: Paul Solomon, Acting Chair; Tim Bowman, Kevin Heine, Sara Masucci, Jennifer Page

Also Present: Michael Sattler, Kevin Cunningham

Absent: Jerome Dubois, Sara Oaklander,

1. **Call to Order**

Paul Solomon called the meeting to order at 7 :05 p.m. The minutes of May 27, 2010 were approved without change.

2. **Envision Belmont: Progress Report** (Tim Bowman, reporting)

2.1 Group Conversations:

Houses of Worship: Tim reported that he has sent an email to the Religious Council explaining the project and asking religious leaders to consider allowing us to hold conversations with their congregations. All houses of worship in Belmont are invited to send a representative to their meetings.

2.2 Planning group

The subgroup of Tim, Sara M., Paul, Jane Feinberg and Wendy Rundle (facilitator) met last Sunday regarding the October 24 event. Wendy has outlined a draft of the process and flow; there may be one more revision.

2.3 "At home" Neighborhood Conversations:

- The Bowmans hosted the first "pilot" neighborhood conversation on May 16, and Paul distributed the notes from that conversation.
- The Solomons will host the next neighborhood conversation on Saturday, June 19, at 4:00pm. Tim will facilitate. Need a recorder.
- Jerome will host on June 26. Tim will facilitate, Sara M. will record.
- Problems: We are having difficulty getting folks to volunteer to host; and we have not figured out a way to move these beyond our own immediate neighbor and friendship circles.
- Two suggestions: It was proposed that we consider other meeting locations -- not in folks' homes -- and also that we try "focus groups" or "affinity groups" such as the Lyons Club, Rotary, Belmont Business Association, senior center attendees.
- Jennifer will send to Paul S. a list of groups that the Vision Committee approached in 2000. Paul will also use other lists of groups (e.g. on the web) to spur our thinking on out-reach.
- Newspaper columns: Sara M., reporting

We have columns ready for the next two weeks: Don Becker and Anne Mahon. Sara is hoping that those who promised to produce something after school is out would come through. Jennifer suggested that the Allen/Oaklander piece that originally was placed with the Belmont yahoo group be considered. It was proposed that all members of VIC should draft something in case Sara has trouble filling a slot.

3. Meet Belmont Update (Jennifer Page, reporting)

As previously announced, the event will be at Chenery Middle School cafeteria on Thursday evening, August 26. Exhibitors have been sent a “hold the date” announcement. We will again enjoy the generous financial support of Belmont Car Wash. Jennifer is drafting initial announcements to release to the Citizen Herald and Belmont Patch, and drafting the announcement for the June newsletter from BMLD. Permission papers for reserving the space and for putting up sandwich boards have been processed. Thanks to Sara O. and Sandra Curro, 500 mini-flyers have been printed; Jennifer distributed some to each member and guest present; piles of these will be distributed to offices at the Town Clerk, Selectmen, Recreation Department, library, School Superintendent’s office, each of the public schools, and the Senior Center.

4. Town Day (debriefing/ general discussion)

- Members said they felt we needed to be more focused on why we were there...
 - We had nothing for folks to sign up for, no useful handouts (Meet Belmont?). If the intent is to give attention to the Vision, we might give away some small thing (keychain, pencil, balloon) as a way to draw in more people. Perhaps we should provide something useful: a list of important town dates, (elections, date for nomination papers, tree lighting, etc.). Other near-by groups had ways to draw people in (e.g. Sustainable Belmont, Farmers’ Market, BMLD)
 - It was also proposed that maybe we don’t belong at Town Day... what we offer is ways to help engage the Town in the Vision. You can’t do that in one brief encounter, competing with carnival rides, restaurants, etc.
 - Perhaps we could use Town Day as a way to draw attention to the Vision as a frame, or a framework: a huge banner saying “Vision” and a couple of the key words from the vision statement.
 - We agreed to revisit this question in March.

5. Vision Committee Leadership

Tim Bowman was elected chair of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee by a unanimous vote. Sara Masucci was elected vice chair by unanimous vote. Their terms will begin after the meeting of June 24. Tim and Sara were congratulated and were warmly thanked by committee members for assuming these roles.

6. Meeting Schedule

Paul distributed a proposed schedule of Vision Committee meetings through December, 2010. Paul will revise it to indicate more clearly that the Committee will not meet on August 26 (Meet Belmont), November 11 (Veterans Day) and November 25 (Thanksgiving.) He was encouraged to add October 24, the “Envision Belmont/Community Conversation” event. In its next iteration, Paul will have confirmed the room assignments for the meetings. He will leave it to Tim to develop a schedule of minute-takers.

7. Update: Town Web Site Project

Sara O. not being present, there was no new information to share. However, Jennifer indicated that Michael Sattler is interested in working on this project with Sara, and Jennifer will make the introduction.

8. Other Business: New Businesses

Jennifer related a query from a new business in town, interested in being part of Meet Belmont. Since Meet Belmont is a non-commercial event, she regretfully turned down the request. However, she raised with the Committee the question of how we might be more supportive of new businesses in Town, and where she might direct such queries in the future. Members proposed that new businesses might approach the Watertown/Belmont Chamber of Commerce or the Belmont’s Office of Planning and Economic Development, while acknowledging that neither of these offices is particularly oriented to helping new small businesses in Belmont. Members proposed a “Meet Belmont” for new businesses or a Trapelo Road version of “Town Day.” We agreed to revisit this question after the Community Conversation in October.

9. Next Meeting: June 24 in the Flett Room of the Library, 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Page
Secretary Pro Tempore