

**Vision Implementation Committee
September 11, 2008**

Minutes

Present:

Kirk Hazlett, Sara Oaklander, Jennifer, Page, Al Rubin, Paul Solomon

Meeting Schedule

The Committee's fall meeting scheduled was reviewed and finalized as follows (meeting dates previously scheduled but not listed here are no longer relevant):

October 1 – new meeting date

October 9 – no meeting

October 23 – regular meeting

November 13 – regular meeting

November 24 – new meeting date

December 10 – new meeting date

Kirk will handle the meeting room reservations and let us all know. He will also establish a schedule for note taking for these meetings.

Minutes

- Kirk has taken note of the need to post past VIC minutes and will do so. He will also update the list of members on the Town website.
- The minutes of the July 16, 2008 meeting were approved with one correction (Vinnie should be listed as absent).
- The minutes of the August 28, 2008 meeting were approved with corrections.

Membership

Austin confirmed with Kirk that he has stepped off the Committee. Kirk needs to confirm with Vinnie that Vinnie has done the same.

Jennifer reported that Delores Keefe expressed regret for not attending meetings of late and her appreciation for being kept informed.

The group discussed progress to date with regard to approaching potential new members and with regard to membership in general. The following was noted:

- The VIC needs new members who are enthusiastic and willing to work. The depth of their Town experience is not as important. Therefore, Meet Belmont participants who indicated an interest in further involvement might be candidates for membership.

- Dan LeClerc suggested we approach Kevin Cunningham from precinct 4. He applied to join the School Committee but was not selected. Jennifer will contact Kevin.
- Some potential new members may not be able to attend meetings on Thursday nights. The group discussed the possibility of switching to Wednesdays. We'd have to avoid the first Wednesday of each month when Sustainable Belmont meets. Currently, Jennifer has other SB Wednesday eve commitments but these will soon end.
- Paul offered to check with one potential new member who cannot meet on Thursdays to see if she is available on Wednesdays.
- The group discussed the best strategy for when prospective new members say yes. For starters, they will be asked to complete a Town committee interest form and indicate their interest in VIC. It may also make sense for the VIC to then contact the Board of Selectmen to bring their attention to the applicants. If a prospective new member wants to sit in on a meeting, we will explain the VIC's status.
- A preference was expressed for new members starting at the same time so that orientation can be coordinated.

Meet Belmont

Several follow-up pieces of business were discussed:

- The supplies are being stored in Sara's basement. Laurie has some items to add – Sara will contact her.
- Jennifer and Laurie will coordinate a debrief meeting in October.
- Jennifer apologized to Kirk for inadvertently leaving him out of the letter to the editor expressing thanks to all volunteers. Kirk was definitely one of the key volunteers as he stood at the registration table all evening, greeting and welcoming guests.
- Kirk reported that Austin declined to help with the follow up survey due to business demands and concurrent time constraints. Kirk will handle it instead.

Response to Board of Selectmen regarding the VIC

Kirk reported on his response, which was shared with the group via email. No response has been received. Paul Solomon offered to speak with Dan LeClerc about what we should expect if we put forward potential new committee members.

Areas of Focus

The group reflected briefly on the three areas of focus for the VIC's work going forward:

- Civic Engagement Campaign – new initiative
- Belmont Neighbor's Network and related activities, including Meet Belmont and welcome to Belmont booklet
- 3 Sustainable Belmont – supporting their work

The group agreed that now is not the time to start a new initiative; that it makes more sense to wait for new members to join first. The group agreed instead to focus on something tangible and productive in the near term. The welcome to Belmont booklet was discussed as an option. An idea was proposed and agreed on, which is to invite Meet Belmont guests who expressed an interest in doing more to attend an upcoming VIC meeting and give their input on the booklet – format, design, and content. The hope is we might generate some ownership of the project among some of the new people. In addition to discussing upgrades to the booklet, we will ask participants what other kind of orientation new residents might like to Belmont and we'll get their input on Meet Belmont.

The group agreed to invite participants to the October 23rd meeting.

Sara offered to take the next steps on this idea, including:

- Follow up with Laurie on data entry of MB guests
 - Cull from that list the names of MB guests who are interested in doing more
 - Draft a letter of invitation to be sent by snail mail.

Other next steps include:

- Plan the meeting
 - Follow up with those who respond positively by sending the booklet

New Business

Walking Forum – Anne Paulsen is organizing a forum on promoting walking in Belmont and invited the VIC to be a co-sponsor. The group reviewed our criteria for sponsorship of events and agreed that this request fully qualifies. Kirk will inform Anne of our willingness to co-sponsor, but make her aware that our ability to participate in the planning is very limited.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Oaklander
Secretary Pro Tempore