

***Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC)
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Minutes September 12, 2024***

Members Present: Duncan Chapman, Melissa Fetterhoff, William Marshall, James Pinard, Martin Poutry, Paul Routhier, Deborah Seeley

Staff: Neil Angus, Beth Suedmeyer, Dawn Babcock

Guests: Meg Delorier (VP MassDevelopment), Carl Sciple (Harvard Resident), Keith Pruett (State Police), Jessica Strunkin (Commonwealth Fusion Systems), Richard Holcomb (Commonwealth Fusion Systems)

Members Absent: Robert Gardner, Christopher Lilly, Debra Rivera

(7:30 AM) Chairman William Marshall called the meeting to order and did a roll call.

Mr. Marshall read that the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) Regular Meeting and Public Hearing is being held virtually in accordance with the Act (Senate Bill #2475) relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or on-line. Persons with disabilities or requiring interpretation wishing to listen or participate should contact 978.772.8831 x3334. In accordance with the State's Open Meeting Law, Mr. Angus informed all attendees that the Devens Enterprise Commission is recording this meeting.

(7:39 AM) Review Minutes:

- **August 27th Minutes** Mr. Marshall noted that the minutes are not ready so we will review them at our next meeting.

Public Hearings: Continued

- **(7:43 AM) (7:03 PM) Level 2 Unified Permit Application for a building-mounted sign waiver** request (increase in allowable size) by **Commonwealth Fusion Systems**. Property located at **111 Hospital Road** (Parcel ID #018.0-0007-0200.0) in the Innovation and Technology Business District. Mr. Angus gave a summary of the hearing on the 27th of August. Mr. Angus noted that Commissioner Fetterhoff has reviewed the recording and signed the Mullin Rule Document. This has been noted in the draft Record of Decision. Mr. Angus reminded the committee that the sign is 494 square foot and a lot of that being is blank space. If the committee is comfortable with what was presented the commission can make the findings with respect to the unique nature and exceptional site conditions that exist. Mr. Angus has prepared a draft Record of Decision should the Commission approve this request. Mr. Angus then handed the floor over to Ms. Strunkin and Mr. Holcomb from CFS to see if they had anything else to add. Ms. Strunkin did note that there has been additional planting this past week at the berm on Grant Road which will increase the screening. Mr. Marshall did ask the Commissioners and Public if they had any questions, none were asked. **Mr. Marshall then asked for a motion to close the hearing, and the motion was made by Mr. Pinard and seconded by Ms. Seeley. The motion to close the hearing was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.** Mr. Angus then reviewed the draft Record of Decision: the only exhibit added is the Mullin Rule Affidavit signed by Mr. Fetterhoff. There are 2 Waivers **1** from our sign regulations (6035D) which allows the sign to be no greater than 100 SqFt; **2** which requires a sign not to exceed a maximum size unless the DEC determines exceptional conditions exist. That only allows the commission to approve a sign 50% larger, that is why they are asking for a waiver in this special circumstance. Mr. Angus asked if he could get a motion on these waivers first. **Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to approve the two waivers, Ms. Seeley made the motion and Mr. Pinard seconded the motion. The motion to approve the two waivers was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.** Mr. Angus then reviewed the 6 Findings in the draft Record of Decision that will address the waivers. The 2nd one in particular was acknowledged, as the sign will be less than 3% of the Façade of the building which is compatible with the scale specified in DEC's sign regulations. Three minor conditions were also reviewed. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions, hearing none, **Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to approve the Level 2 Permit as Presented. The motion to approve was**

made by Ms. Seeley and seconded by Mr. Routhier. The motion to approve the Level 2 Permit as Presented was approved unanimously by a roll call vote. Ms. Strunkin asked expressed her thanks for the time and consideration on this application from the Commission on behalf of herself and the Commonwealth Fusion Systems.

New Business:

- **(7:55 AM) Media Minute:** Mr. Angus reviewed a few items that have been posted on our Facebook page: DEEC 6 Month Summary/ highlights; Vicksburg Square Window Art Installation; Devens Forward Climate Action Plan posts; Mosquito notice of EEE and West Nile Virus with more cases popping up in the region. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions, none were asked.
- **(8:00 AM) Read File:** Mr. Marshall noted that we were going to put the letter received from the Department of Public Health Commissioner Goldstein in response to the DEC letter issued to the Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services regarding the closure of Nashoba Valley Medical Center, but it had been emailed to the Commissioners. There were no other items. Mr. Marshall did note that he was pleased to see a response, but the hospital still closed. Mr. Marshall noted that there was an article in the paper with the towns concerned with the risks surfacing with them having further to travel to hospitals. Mr. Marshall did note that there has been talk about a possible acute care unit opening there. Ms. Delorier commented that the acute care facility would be great, but ambulances are not able to take patients to urgent care facilities.
- Mr. Marshall asked if there were any other New Business topics. Mr. Angus noted that he and Mr. Marshall did attend the DJFC Meeting yesterday (9/11), and they discussed the Police Services and Education for Devens. The next meeting is October 16th and they are planning to discuss the Fire Services. Mr. Angus noted that has put together a list that he has shared with MassDevelopment and Devens Fire, which he is waiting to hear back from them. Mr. Angus noted he will share the draft list at our next meeting. Mr. Marshall added that the disposition discussion is continuing, however, there has been a large amount of turnover in the committee in the last 3 months with more to come possibly with elections coming up. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions, and none were asked
- Mr. Marshall asked if there were any more New Business items. Ms. Suedmeyer noted that she has a few updates on the projects here in Devens. They are planning to have a Pocket Forest Workday at the Devens playground next Wednesday, 9/18 from 4:00 – 6:00. Also, they are wrapping up the mural at Willard Field and they are planning a ribbon cutting in the near future. Ms. Suedmeyer will be sending out an invitation to the event to the Commissioners. Mr. Angus noted that they have been working with the Shriver Job Corps and Devens DPW in hopes to get some benches and trees planted near the mural area as well

(8:09 AM) Public Comment Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions from the public. Ms. Delorier noted that the MassDevelopment Board of Directors will be meeting on October 10th here in Devens once she has confirmation of the time, she will be sharing the invitation with the Commission and staff.

(8:10 AM) Mr. Marshall noted the next scheduled meetings are September 24th at 6:45 PM, (Hybrid Meeting) and October 3rd at 7:30 AM, (Zoom Meeting).

(8:10 AM) Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was made by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Poutry. Adjournment was concluded unanimously by roll call.**

List of Exhibits

- Agenda
- Public Hearing – Continued
 - 111 Hospital Road
 - Mullin Rule Affidavits for Commissioners Fetterhoff
 - Draft ROD