



Welcome to DevensConnect

MassDevelopment BOD Meeting

10 October 2024

DevensConnect - Agenda

- Devens related resident committees/organizations
- Continued Evolution of the “Devens Community Identity”
- Three Pillars of Engagement
- Key Takeaways
- Path Forward

DevensConnect – Resident Committees/Orgs.

- **DevensConnect:** Informal non-elected volunteer resident group – primarily focused on communication and interface regarding Jurisdiction, with crossover into adjacent topics consistent with DJFC activities (i.e.. Housing, VSq...) *John Katter Lead*
- **Devens Committee:** Elected residents who represent Devens residents to MA Development, as our jurisdiction authority. Addresses concerns and provides input to MassDevelopment.
- **DJFC:** Devens resident volunteer appointee representing Devens residents regarding Jurisdiction and other related topics. *John Katter Resident Participant*
- **DEAC:** Devens Educational Advisory Committee. Elected residents who provide advice and consultation to MA Development regarding educational and education-related issues and concerns pertaining to persons who reside at Devens.

NOTES:

Continued Evolution of the “Devens Community Identity”

- Building on 20+ year heritage of resident advocacy
- Building the Pillars of Community Identity
 - Pillar 1 Activation and Engagement of Devens Residents
 - Pillar 2 Legislative Engagement
 - Pillar 3 Other Engagements

NOTES:

Pillar 1 – Resident Activation and Engagement

- Since get out the vote campaign registration doubled, and voter turnout increased by 118%
- Door to Door Canvassing and flyer/email distribution informing residents of status of Governor's Economic Development Bill, Devens Housing Cap, Affordable Housing etc.
- Distributed BREAKING NEWS communications to residents and Call-to-Action to marshal resident's participation that resulted in DJFC retraction of "jurisdictional carve out of VSq."
- Conducted Resident survey - used in first in-person Resident education meeting Nov '23 (Meeting #1)
- Increased Resident Opt-In participation to 60% in Spring '24 Resident meeting with MA Dev and DEC as participants (Meeting #2) and meeting attendance increase by 25% (Meeting 2 vs Meeting 1).
- Continuing to conduct small neighborhood group educational meetings

Devens Resident Organizations: (DJFC, Devens Committee, DEAC and DevensConnect)

Note: Active collaboration ensures information sharing and alignment.

Pillar 2 – Legislative Engagement

- Initial Zoom meeting with Legislators (Eldridge, Cronin, Sena)
- Other one-on-one meetings with Legislators (In person and virtual) on existing and emerging topics
- Introduction of Legislators to new Devens Committee
- In close coordination with the Devens Committee we were able to engage with our legislators to reinsert the inclusion of the Devens Committee into the Housing Working Group if it proceeds
- Established Devens residents as an engaged and vocal stakeholder group

NOTES:

Pillar 3 – Other Engagements

- Town engagements via “dual role” – DevensConnect with DJFC (DJFC meetings and individual meetings)
- News Media requests and inputs (Boston Globe, Harvard Press) and resultant articles
- As a community, we have built strong relationships with **Towns**, MassDevelopment and the DEC
- Continue to establish “ Devens” as a community with its own identity
- Spreading the word through engagements with all stakeholders including the citizens of the commonwealth through meetings and press interactions.

NOTES:

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Devens has become a separate and distinct community with its own identity that is increasingly being recognized and *enfranchised*.
- Other than the Commonwealth and businesses, no one has invested more than Devens residents. Devens is becoming one of the Commonwealth's most diverse communities.
- Feedback from residents and legislators increasingly demonstrate that accelerated jurisdiction prior to 2033 should not happen. It distracts from the critical business at hand:
 - Housing
 - Continued business growth
 - Sustainability

NOTES:

DevensConnect – Future Path Forward

- Continue to increase Resident Opt-In participation
- Conduct Resident Education Meetings on DJFC Jurisdiction related Topics (i.e.. ***Matrix List***) and other specific topics as they arise
- Continue to engage with Towns, Legislators, Governors Office and other Commonwealth entities, and continue to inform/engage Devens residents
- Continue to maintain strong alignment with DJFC, Devens Committee and DEAC
- **NOTES:**



Thank you for Joining Us

We look forward to the conversation! Please tell your Devens neighbors!

Stay in touch: devensconnect@proton.me