



Request for “Expressions of Interest to Serve” Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee

The Opportunity to Serve

The Town of Ayer, through the Ayer Select Board and the Office of the Ayer Town Manager, are pleased to notify the residents of Ayer of this noteworthy opportunity for local civic service as an appointed member of the **“Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee”**.

The Town of Ayer seeks and requests “Expressions of Interest to Serve” on the Committee from Ayer residents. The appointee/s term of service and Committee meeting schedule will be determined through the Committee establishment process. The production of the “Study” and final “Joint Report” will likely require a process in excess of 2-3 years. The process will afford the opportunity for a smooth succession of new committee members being appointed, if needed, as the “Study & Report” process advances to completion.

The “Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee” will determine and establish the Committee meeting schedule (monthly/quarterly/etc.) beginning in July 2023, until completion and delivery of the Study & Joint Report, on or before July 1, 2033.

Introduction

As per Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 498, Section 23, Acts of 1993 - Permanent Government Structure:

*“On or before July first, two thousand and thirty (**July 1, 2030**), the commission (Devens Enterprise Commission), the boards of selectmen of the towns (Ayer/Harvard/Shirley) with the advice of the planning boards, and the bank (MassDevelopment) **shall initiate a Study, hereinafter called the Study, concerning permanent government structure for the ongoing operation and administration of Devens.** The study shall evaluate alternative structures for government, ownership and operation of open space, recreation, and other lands and facilities, infrastructure, easements, equipment and records, with such alternative structures, including by not limited to, town government and joint entities or combinations thereof, or the bank and joint entities or combinations thereof, or the bank and the commission, and shall identify transition costs and further investments needed. During the preparation of the study, public participation shall be encouraged and public hearings held.”*

“On or before July 1, 2033, the commission, the boards of selectmen of the towns, and the bank shall submit the Study and a Joint Report to the Governor, the Secretary and to the Clerk of the House and the Clerk of the Senate recommending a permanent government structure for the ongoing operation and administration of Devens. Such report shall also identify any surplus funds that have been generated during the development of Devens, after considering the costs of funding appropriate reserve accounts, costs of retiring all bonds, notes and other debt instruments issued to maintain and develop Devens, and all the commission's and bank's unreimbursed costs related in any way to the redevelopment of Fort Devens, including, without limitation, all costs incurred in the operation, maintenance and development of Devens, and recommend how any such surplus funds and any future surplus funds shall be distributed, which recommendation shall include distributing all or a portion of such surplus to the towns.”

About the Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Joint Report

The Ayer+Devens 2033 Study & Report Committee will formulate and adopt the final Committee Mission Statement: A DRAFT/Example Mission Statement produced by AOCED as follows: “The Committee is charged with the advancement and delivery of a unified civic decision, through public study and report, for the permanent governance of the approximately 1,000 acres of historic Ayer municipal land at Devens on or before July 1, 2033.”

The work of the Committee will be accomplished through a well-structured and scheduled civic process resulting in the initiation of the “Study”, and the production of the final “Joint Report”, on or before (2033).

The Committee will coordinate and work in partnership with the Ayer Select Board, the Ayer Planning Board, all municipal departments & committees, contracted study & report project consultant/s, fellow municipal officials and committees in the Towns of Harvard & Shirley, the Devens Jurisdictional Framework Committee (DJFC), the Devens Enterprise Commission staff and board (DEC), MassDevelopment staff and board, the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, and the residents of the Town of Ayer.

The Study (Permanent Governance)

As stated in Chapter 498: “*The Study shall evaluate alternative structures for government, ownership and operation of open space, recreation, and other lands and facilities, infrastructure, easements, equipment and records, with such alternative structures, including by not limited to, town government and joint entities or combinations thereof, or the bank (MassDevelopment) and joint entities or combinations thereof, or the bank (MassDevelopment) and the commission (DEC), and shall identify transition costs and further investments needed. During the preparation of the study, public participation shall be encouraged, and public hearings held.*”

The Joint Report (Permanent Governance)

As stated in Chapter 498: *(DEC), (The Town of Ayer/Harvard/Shirley Select Boards), & (MassDevelopment) “shall submit the Study and a Joint Report to the Governor, the Secretary and to the Clerk of the House and the Clerk of the Senate recommending a permanent government structure for the ongoing operation and administration of Devens. Such report shall also identify any surplus funds that have been generated during the development of Devens, after considering the costs of funding appropriate reserve accounts, costs of retiring all bonds, notes and other debt instruments issued to maintain and develop Devens, and all the commission's and bank's unreimbursed costs related in any way to the redevelopment of Fort Devens, including, without limitation, all costs incurred in the operation, maintenance and development of Devens, and recommend how any such surplus funds and any future surplus funds shall be distributed, which recommendation shall include distributing all or a portion of such surplus to the towns.”*

Submission Requirements:

(See attached Expression of Interest application form)

(Proposed) “Expression of Interest” Submission Deadline:

Friday, June 16, 2023.