

**Structural Change Impact Group
Consolidation, Regionalization & Outsourcing Working Group**

Minutes
March 11, 2022
Meeting conducted via Zoom

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 24, 2022
TIME: 9:17 AM

Members present: Aaron Pikcinglis, Paul Rickter, Mark Paolillo, Brian Antonellis

Members absent:

Other attendees:

Meeting was called to order at 8:37am.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 11, 2022 meetings were approved. Moved: Paolillo, Seconded: Pikcinglis, Voted: 4-0. February 18. Moved: Paolillo, Seconded: Pikcinglis, Voted 3-0 (Antonellis abstained)

Discussion of Next Steps

The working group agreed that we will meet at least once more to compile our ideas into text that can appear in the executive summary of the committee report.

Identifying Key Themes

The working group discussed the key themes that we've previously identified. These are:

1. Need for Greater Centralization and Standardization
2. Improved and more transparent financial planning and management
3. Vigilance in identifying new revenue sources
4. Create a plan to monetize real estate through rezoning, sale, and or lease of property
5. Work collaboratively with neighboring communities and centralize purchasing to improve efficiency
6. Implement a process to evaluate whether to outsource/insource a given service
7. Promote innovation among the town and district staff
8. Work with Belmont Light to reduce utility bills for town residents and businesses
9. Pension and/or Retirement Board changes

On figuring out what happens after the report is done, Paolillo highlighted the importance of identifying concrete next steps for each idea. Pikcinglis noted that there are lots of good resources from the Collins Center that could help us make progress on implementing these ideas.

In reviewing these themes, the working group noted some issues to fix. For example, "centralize purchasing to improve efficiency" should be included in theme 1 instead of 5, and number 8 should be more general (such as "Reduce costs to residents").

Review of Matrix

The working group reviewed the current matrix, adding scores for a few ideas that were missing scores or that were recently assigned to the working group. All items are identified by their ID numbers and are included in the committee idea matrix posted at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b64yoe9y05lnwzb/AAB5iDttndB5Pfik6Wzo5Qgva?dl=0>.

- ID 358 (Soccer bubble at Grove Street Playground) - Pikilingis will pull the score from the draft report
- ID 413 (Town Charter) - Given a score of 47
- ID 270 (Relax height limit) - Pikilingis will pull the score from the draft report
- ID 418 (Property tax incentives for property owners who make apartments affordable) - parent is now ID 107 (Review re-zoning opportunities)
- ID 419 (Commercial development along Community Path) - parent is now ID 107 (Review re-zoning opportunities)
- ID 420 (School bus regionalization) - parent is now 108 (Establish Town Manager/Administrator working group)

Next Steps

- Pikilingis will work with Matt Gasparo to standardize the themes.
- Working group members will identify one or more themes covered in the ideas that they wrote up.

Next meeting: March 18 at 8:00am.

Adjourned at 9:28am (Moved: Pikilingis, Seconded: Paolillo, Voted 4-0)

Minutes recorded by Paul Rickter