

DATA REQUESTED FROM PLANNERS COLLABORATIVE – 11-8-2010

From the Acton 2020 Committee

1. --Need town census info on people moving in/out – based on family size and family ages (so we can really get at the question of what rate are older people moving out and being replaced by young families with school or pre-school aged families). As we discussed, this may be hard to get for other communities, but trend and comparison data is always very helpful in knowing how we stand—if we are similar to other communities versus very different, that affects how we go about solving the problem.
2. --Need ratio of K-12 population to town population—what is the trend and how do we compare with other communities?
3. --School Crowding – are we at capacity? Trend and other community comparisons
4. --What % of overall taxes is spent for schools? Trend and other community comparisons
5. --What do we spend per student? Trend and other community comparisons
6. --Figure out a way to determine how many people and especially how many school-aged children are living in what sized housing. Would the town census tell us this? We need to know if our small units and apartment buildings really are attracting more families/kids or not. Again, great to have trend and comparison data, but this may be tough to answer.
7. --Open Space: what's protected and what's not, overall and per capita, with trends and other community comparisons.
8. --What is currently happening to open space in Acton? Of that which is not protected, and is no longer open space—where has it gone—residential building, town-purchased, business-owned?
9. --Based on current zoning, how much additional land can be built, and for what—residential vs business? Eventually, we need to understand this buildout analysis so we know what we can support in terms of resources the town has
10. --Water resources: Do our current resources enable more development? How much more? How does that answer correlate to the amount of development zoning allows?
11. --How does having sewers vs. septic tank help or hurt our water resources?
12. --What is the ratio of K-12 kids in Acton going to public school vs private schools, and how does that compare with other communities?
13. --How does reliance on septic affect development? What goals does it threaten, what goals does it support?
14. --I think we have the carbon footprint measures we've agreed on defined (but not yet gathered) (this is from Jim S-G)

15. --What are the characteristics of successful town villages (design, uses, economics)? Are they economically viable? Do they need non-profit funding to underwrite/support activity?
16. --What is the capacity of our current road infrastructure? What areas/intersections are at or beyond capacity?
17. --population growth of community as a whole
18. --tax rate - now at 17.12 % and in the past 50 years
19. --the amount of tax levy going to schools vs municipal over past 50 years
20. --residential growth rate from 50 years ago to today
21. --tax burden compared to home value
22. --available land left to develop
23. --# of municipal water wells in Acton compared with other towns not on Quabbin
24. --percentage of properties sewerred. Is it 12% or 20?