

From: Lauren Rosenzweig [mailto:lsr57@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2011 9:53 PM
To: Margaret Woolley Busse
Subject: Fwd: Acton 2020 questions

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <bos@acton-ma.gov>
From: Lauren Rosenzweig <lsr57@comcast.net>
Date: January 19, 2011 6:05:11 PM EST
To: Acton Board of Selectmen <bos@acton-ma.gov>
Cc: Margaret Woolley Busse <bussehome@comcast.net>
Subject: Acton 2020 questions

Dear Fellow Selectmen:

Below are the questions that Margaret asked us to answer for the Acton 2020 committee. Please send your answers directly to her at the above e-mail address. Nothing like a fun homework assignment to make one feel young!

- What are you working on? What are your main projects
- What are your 3 (doesn't have to be precisely 3) main goals?
- What do you see as challenges and opportunities coming up in the future?
- What long-range plans are you working on or contemplating working on?
- What are the 3 (doesn't have to be precisely 3) things that you would like Acton citizens to know about the town (this should be in the context of what the specific committee works on)
- Do you have any long-range planning documents you can give us for input? If not, would you be willing to draw some up? [This question may be more relevant for some committees than others.]

Answers:

- 1) My main projects going forward are completing the Conservation Restriction of the Caouette/Simeone property, preparing the Warrant for Town meeting, developing some policy guidance for use of the remaining sewer capacity for our treatment plant. My job as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen is more one of coordination. I am responsible for organizing the Selectmen's meetings and addressing the goals we set at the beginning of the year. I am also responsible for working toward cooperation of all boards and committees to meet mutually agreed upon town goals and objectives.
- 2) Work with the other boards and committees to ensure funding for needed services, aid communication among different boards, work together as a board to establish consensus on targeted policy issues.
- 3) --There needs to be more recognition/celebration of the volunteers in town who put in countless hours of their skills to better the town.
--We need to do better outreach to bring people to Town Meeting, and make it an event worth attending.

-- We need to make better use of the town website, cable tv and other communication methods to engage people in more town activities and decisions and for educational outreach
-- We need to be more proactive on saving land for open space
--I personally would like to see our villages and Kelley's Corner develop into extremely attractive places to shop, work, and live (not necessarily in that order).
--We need to educate the community on wastewater issues and explain the connection between wastewater disposal choices and the effect on the community both pro and con.

4) In the coming years I would like to see the board and committee chairs meet on a regular basis, and use the Master Plan as a guide to work from. This would ensure that all the boards and committees were working toward mutual goals, and that communication would be on-going. This can help avoid committees working at odds or in conflict with one another, and avoid any misunderstandings.

5) The reason the town is considered such a highly desirable place to live is because people work hard to provide highly responsive services--both school and town. People work hard to try to meet the demands of a highly educated, diverse population, and to foster a welcoming, collaborative style of interaction at all levels. Acton is considered a "friendly" town. People work hard to achieve that culture.

There is a tremendous level of volunteerism making things happen that couldn't otherwise happen or would be very expensive to fund out of taxes. These are the sports programs, arts programs, cultural programs, etc. the comraderie and expertise that goes into these efforts is of a very high caliber.

Acton is a town with a value of embracing and welcoming new people. We have made it possible for people to live here in a diversity of living situations--apartments, condos, single family, senior housing, cooperative housing, etc. Each time we get too "snobby" there is an opposite reaction to be more inclusive.

We care deeply about the environment and put resources into saving and maintaining natural settings and trails. We have a lot of people concerned about the future of our planet and do much recycling and reduction of waste, and work hard to reduce wasted energy, and fund sustainable methods such as solar, and other alternative energies/fixtures.

I highly recommend that people read through the West Acton Village Plan, East Acton Village Plan, Open Space & Rec. Plan, Kelley's Corner Plan, and South Acton Village Plan. Many of these goals will likely still be relevant, and can now be further defined.

In terms of planning, I think "form-based" zoning is the way to go. Define the vision and scale you want in certain areas, and then zone for the type of development you want.

Thanks for this opportunity for comments.

Lauren

Lauren Rosenzweig Morton