

Acton 2020

DRAFT 11 May 2011

Preliminary thoughts for reviewing ALTERNATIVES in June 23 public meeting



**PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
“Choose Your Acton”  
Alternatives for Action**

Thursday, June 23, 2010  
6:30 p.m.  
Acton Town Hall, Room #204

***Purpose:***

*The purpose of this meeting is to present three alternative courses of action that would meet the previously developed planning goals in a variety of ways and to differing degrees. The main objective is to seek input on these alternatives as we move forward in the process of selecting a preferred course of action. This workshop represents a continuation of the community conversation that will result in formulating recommendations for a community master plan for the future of Acton.*

**AGENDA**

- 6:30 - 7:30 Welcome and Introduction  
Visit Information Tables  
Provide Written Input -- ???  
Presentation
- 7:30 – 8:30 Break into Groups
- 8:30 – 9:30 Resume as Large Group  
Next Steps

## **BACK OF AGENDA**

There are some decisions to be made regardless of which general course of action (alternative) is selected to help guide Acton's growth in the future.

Please let us know your thoughts on the following factors that can be acted on independently (that is, regardless of which alternative is chosen):

### **Service and Facility Choices**

Whether, how, and where to provide a new community center and/or senior center

Whether, how, and where to provide better emergency response to North Acton, including potential new Fire Station

OTHER???

Are there any other such service and/or facility needs you feel should be addressed?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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## 6:30 – 7:30 POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

**Introduction** – welcome, overview of process and purpose

**Key Issues** that alternatives try to address (e.g. demographic trends, trends in Town’s land use patterns, etc.)

Presentation of **Alternatives** and **Evaluation**

- Description of each Alternative
- Observations and issues identified regarding potential trade offs
- Graphic (map)
- Photos representing potential outcomes (“Zoom in” on Kelley’s Corner, large residential tract, village area, etc.)

**Key Driving Forces (wildcards)**

Define potential sources of change that may impact the future that are less predictable (e.g. national economic trends, price of gas, future availability of state funding opportunities, changes in technology, etc.)

List of **Sample Strategies** that would be part of all and any alternative

Description of evening’s **Workshop**

## 7:30 – 8:30 SMALL GROUPS

### MATERIALS

- Goals and objectives (one set of laminated per table)
- Alternative Description (including graphic)
- Evaluation Matrix (words and symbols with relative impacts)
- Evaluation Worksheet

Introductions around the table

### Part A: WORK WITH PARTNERS / INDIVIDUAL EVALUATIONS

[30 minutes]

Assign partners (if someone prefers to work alone, they can. We have to hope for an even number of participants in each group, if odd, then Committee member needs to work with single group member.

***Instructions to Participants: Fill out one EVALUATION WORKSHEET for each Alternative using the ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTIONS and EVALUATION MAXTRICES as references.***

***Collect these at the end of the session***

**Part B: SMALL GROUP CONSENSUS [30 minutes]**

Make an effort to reach group consensus

**1. Acton’s Future Resilience:** Which Alternative do you think supports Acton’s “survival” for the next generation in terms of the following (and why)?:

Alternatives 1, 2, or 3

- a) Natural environment (e.g. carbon footprint, natural habitats, water resources) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Town character (historic, rural characteristics) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Economic viability (financial well-being, commercial development) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Social fabric (diversity in terms of ages, socio-economic, ethnicity, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. “Wild Cards” (potential sources of future change that are not easy to predict) – OR move to large group discussion??**

a) Which alternative do you think would be best if gas prices doubled in the future? Why?

**b) Other???**

**TRANSITION TO LARGE GROUP:** All participants on same easel pad.

**Preferred Alternative:** If you had to choose one alternative as the base or foundation to build on -- which one would you choose? (Have participants place dots on large pad with alternatives listed. **Include a column for comments ?? (or takes too much time?)**)

**LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (1 hour)**

Identify the majority selection while carefully recording minority opinion and order of preference of the other two alternatives (as well as comments). Use to guide the discussion.

- a) What do you like about this alternative?
- b) What don’t you like or what concerns you about it?
- c) What would you change to make this alternative better?

**Key Policy Choice to be made and added to preferred alternative**

Get relief from 40B by large rental complexes including affordable units **OR** state-approved Housing Production Plan with small-scale affordable development in scattered locations, and potentially buying deed restrictions to keep existing units of housing affordable.

**Other???**

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**DRAFT EVALUATION WORKSHEET:  
ALTERNATIVE 1**

**(one sheet per alternative for individuals to use for evaluating alternatives either  
alone or with a partner)**

Please note what you like and/or what concerns you about each alternative with regard to the planning goals and any other objectives you feel are important to consider.

**IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS**

Positive

.....  
.....  
.....  
....

Negative

.....  
.....  
.....  
...

**POTENTIAL TRADE-OFFS**

.....  
.....

**DISCUSSION**

The best thing about this alternative is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What I like least about this alternative is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What I would like to keep from this alternative if another alternative is chosen or if it is merged with elements from others is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

My **OVERALL RANKING** of this alternative is (out of a total of 3, with 1 being the preferred option. Consider how well the alternative meets the planning goals):

\_\_\_\_\_