



PUBLIC WORKSHOP
How Do We Get There?
Strategies for Action
A Public Meeting to Present Recommendations for Acton's Future

Wednesday, November 9, 2011
6:30 p.m.
Parker Damon School

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting is to present the implementation plan that is to guide Acton towards the desired future expressed by the vision developed with extensive input from the community at large. The implementation plan outlines action steps, identifies the party(ies) to take lead responsibility, and recommends phasing/prioritization .

This workshop represents a continuation of the community conversation that will result in a community comprehensive plan for the future of Acton.

AGENDA

- 6:30- 7:15 Visit Information Tables
Welcome and Introduction
Power Point Presentation
- 7:15 – 9:15 Break into Groups to Visit “Goal Stations”
- 9:15 – 9:30 Resume as Large Group to Wrap Up
Next Steps

The following are the key themes that emerged from the continuing community conversation with Acton's residents. The Implementation Plan makes a concerted effort to address these.

There are large wall posters available for your comments or you may write in the space provided below. Please give us your thoughts regarding importance, examples of ways of achieving, or anything you think we may be missing.

Key Underlying Themes¹

Desire for an increased 'sense of community'

- **Community gathering:** desire for indoor and outdoor places and events to meet and interact casually, spontaneously as well as in a planned, more formal fashion.
- **Town character:** desire to preserve and enhance features --physical and other -- including a commitment to excellence in education, rural and historic characteristics, and small town feeling, which make Acton unique and contribute to its sense of community.
- **Connectivity:** desire for walking, biking, public transportation; traffic calming and improvements; increased opportunities for social networks and connections.

Concern regarding the 'future resilience' of the Town

- **Environmental sustainability:** concern regarding the survivability of the environment due to overuse, abuse and neglect.
- **Social and economic diversity,** concern regarding ability to accommodate a range of socio-economic levels as well as the ability to age in place.
- **Financial viability:** concern regarding the ability of the Town to maintain a viable balance between taxes and services provided.

OR

COST ESTIMATE

INCREASE TO TAX BILL

RANKING

Willingness to pay for –
tally marks? Ranking? Other?

¹ These are dominant themes expressed by participants in the planning process (in both Phases I and II).

6:30 – 7:15

VISIT INFORMATION TABLE

Inventory: a couple of copies

Phase I Reports: a couple of copies

Maps

Reports from Phase II public meetings: summary pages

October 2010

Burning Issues (3)

June 23rd Alternatives Meeting

List of Fall Meetings attendees & agenda

Wall poster with “WHAT makes Acton Unique?”

OTHER?

Take Home Handouts

(give participants as they leave and/or post on web

Precedent pages: Planning and Urban Design -- ?

Village Centers

Mixed Use Development

Multi-family Housing

Precedent Pages: Regulatory

Affordable Housing Handout - ?

TDR Handout - ?

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Purpose of Comprehensive Community Plan,
brief review of previous plan

Process : show process diagram

Brief description of Phase I process & results

Vision/Underlying Themes

Goals and Objectives

Key issues from Inventory

Burning Issues

Alternatives

Proposed Concept Plan (incl. how differs from pr. Plan)

Implementation Plan

Show sample format (one goal, one objective)

Key top 15 recommendations

Cost Profile

Instructions for Evening's Workshop

7:15 – 9:15 BREAK INTO GROUPS TO VISIT “GOAL STATIONS”

(7 stations, 15 minutes each)
+ additional (8th) station to prioritize across goals and key recommendations (15 minutes)

7 GOAL STATIONS

Each goal station will be staffed by a member of the 2020 Committee, Consultants and Town Staff [How many members (and which ones) of the Committee are able to attend on November 9?]

PART A. *Participants will be asked to distribute themselves among the goal stations, they will be guided so that they are more or less even distributed. We will ring a bell every 15 minutes: they can stay or move if they want all stations. Participants can stay for whole thing or can leave when they want to*

Goal Station Staff:

Each time a new group arrives to the “station” the “staff” will give a very brief introduction to their goal and objectives (VERY brief overview and brief statement of how it ties in to the overall vision and plan concept, will work out script).

Goal Station Table and Wall

- List of all goals and objectives (to provide overall context)
- Complete implementation plan with all strategies and actions (8.5” x11”)

- Large wall posters with main implementation strategies (and not all actions) on them one sheet per objective with room for:
 - Writing Comments
 - Adding strategy
 - Prioritizing Strategies: Participants will be given 6 small green dots to prioritize within each goal (can use up to 2 on any one item)

PART B. 1 KEY QUESTION PER GOAL – as we go through implementation plan, let's try to identify areas we need more info on, more temperature taking on, more ideas about, we may not have one for every goal, let's not force it if we don't

Goal 1: Preserve Town Character

Which centers should we focus on first: Kelley's Corner or West Acton?

Goal 2: Ensure Sustainability

Ideas from other places regarding how to change behavior or best practices regarding sustainability

Goal 3: Improve Connections

Goal 4: Community Gathering

Goal 5: Inclusion and Diversity

Goal 6: Town-owned Assets

Goal 7: Financial

PART C. PRIORITIZE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS BY GOAL

Two large boards (to reduce crowding around one board) will list the key recommendations (perhaps by goal) and ask participants to prioritize these (also indicating what they may be willing to support paying for....we can then easily see (visually) which have the most support from participants and report this in the report back.

- Use large red dots to prioritize across goals