



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 workshop is being held **to solicit input on the recommended strategies, including feedback on 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 – 9:00 Break into Groups to Visit “Goal Stations”
- 9:00 – 9:30 Resume as Large Group to Wrap Up
Next Steps

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN: KEY UNDERLYING THEMES

The following are key themes that emerged from the community conversation with Acton residents¹. The Implementation Plan makes a concerted effort to propose strategies that address these themes.

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 protect its assets and maintain a viable balance between taxes

COMMENTS??

¹ The planning process included significant outreach to Acton residents through public meetings, mail survey, telephone survey, focus groups, and other forums. Detailed documentation of these can be found at <http://acton2020.info/>

6:30 – 6:45

VISIT INFORMATION TABLE

(available before, during and after the meeting, also posted on web)

Reference Documents & Maps

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?

Reference “Memos”

Precedent Pages: Planning and Urban Design -- ?

Village Centers

Mixed Use Development

Multi-family Housing

Precedent Pages: Regulatory

Affordable Housing Handout - ?

TDR Handout - ?

Handouts (including back of agenda)

- *List of main capital expenditures (used at Cost Station)*
- *List of underlying themes*
- *Preliminary List of Top Key Recommendations*
- *Goals and Objectives*

6:45 – 7:15

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 – 9:00 **BREAK INTO GROUPS TO VISIT “GOAL STATIONS” (105 minutes)**

(7 stations, 12 minutes per goal station)
+ 10 minutes to prioritize across goals (“bonus dots”)
+ additional (8th) cost station (10 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 12 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 (See 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 3 on any one item)
- Use **5 large red “bonus” dots** to prioritize across goals (can use up to 2 on any one item)

Color-coded dots per goal or write goal # on dots

Give people a way of identifying “ripe apples” ?? maybe not enough time (too confusing)?? OR could use a differently shaped sticker, may work

PART B. 1 KEY QUESTION PER GOAL –

Goal 1: Preserve Town Character

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

Goal 2: Ensure Sustainability

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

Goal 3: Improve Connections

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Goal 4: Community Gathering

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Goal 5: Inclusion and Diversity

Affordable housing question

Goal 6: Town-owned Assets

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Goal 7: Financial

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PART C. COST STATION:

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING: "VOTE" WITH YOUR \$\$

There will be a "Cost Station" with a table of "Potential Estimated Cost Impacts of the Comprehensive Plan Recommended Capital Expenditures". Participants will be given five **\$20 ACTON BILLS** and asked to prioritize these by indicating what they may be willing to support paying for by placing the bills in **BOXES** labeled with each item.

Participants can also use **POST-IT NOTES** to make **COMMENTS**.

We can then count the bills in each box to indicate which items have the most support from participants and report this in the report back.

Should we also have a "Personal Bank Account Box"?