

DRAFT.
Minutes - Acton 2020 Committee Meeting
November 22nd, 2011
7 pm – 10:30 pm
Public Safety Facility

Attendees:

- Members: Margaret Woolley Busse, Sahana Purohit, , Jim Snyder-Grant, Celia Kent, Paulina Knibbe
- Staff: Roland Bartl
- Planners Collaborative: Daphne Politis, Jim Purdy
- Selectman Liaison: John Sonner

Chair Margaret Woolley Busse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item I: Minutes

Jim Snyder Grant moved to approve minutes from 10-26-2011 Celia Kent seconded. Approved unanimously.

Agenda Item II: Debrief Nov 9th public info session.

It was a good meeting and well received by those attending. Lower turnout than we would have liked.

Discussion about possible warrant articles based on 2020 activities. There will need to be one for Town Meeting to discuss and (hopefully) approve the Master Plan. It might be appropriate to add some others if there are 'low hanging fruit' that we could get approved this year. No decision made.

Agenda Item IV: Agree on presentation points for Board of Selectmen meeting, Dec 5th

John Sonner – Finances are a key concern for the BoS. Balance details vs overview. Include some rough sense of recommended timing for strategies. This is also an opportunity to educate the public.

Jim Snyder-Grant – Keep it short so there is time to get questions and comments from the Board

Agenda Item III: Finalize Strategies

Committee engaged in a priority exercise and then consolidated recommendations to the following list (not in priority order):

- ✓ Preserve and enhance village centers and Kelley's Corner (Prepare a focused *Village Centers Plan* and area-specific design studies to set priorities for new and redevelopment in the centers).
- ✓ Develop Kelley's Corner into a mixed use town center and transportation hub.
- ✓ Actively promote employment-oriented economic development (e.g., R&D, high tech, office) to expand the tax base.
- ✓ Review and revise Town zoning to align with Acton 2020 Plan objectives (also improve/coordinate design review by BoS for commercial, village center mixed use, and large multifamily development).
- ✓ Protect, acquire, and improve open space for conservation, farming, and recreation, using a combination of acquisition and zoning, including Transfer of Development Rights to centers.
- ✓ Manage wastewater (e.g., consider a West Acton sewer extension and/or advanced package wastewater treatment with groundwater recharge for other development concentrations).
- ✓ Improve the transfer station to increase recycling and reuse.
- ✓ Reduce energy use in Town buildings and promote townwide energy conservation with the help of a ½-time Sustainability Coordinator. Evaluate a Transition Initiative for a greener Acton.
- ✓ Construct more sidewalks and facilities for safe bicycling, in centers and townwide.
- ✓ Continue to fund, and later expand/improve the MinuteVan shuttle to build ridership (with more frequent service between village centers, Kelley's Corner, and rail station).
- ✓ Plan, site, and construct a new building to accommodate the Senior Center and larger community, when finances permit.
- ✓ Prepare a proactive plan to address housing needs and free the Town from 40B development, with housing in small, scattered sites near walkable service and business destinations, especially village centers. (Consider possible Town financial participation in desired housing developments).
- ✓ Develop policies and strategies to keep seniors in Acton (e.g., Senior Center, provision of appropriate housing, etc.)
- ✓ Integrate teens in the community; involve them in planning to provide more activities teens can reach without a car.
- ✓ Continue to support and achieve high standards of excellence in Acton's schools.

Action Items:

1. Margaret Wooley-Busse will prepare the presentation for the BoS on Dec 5th. Members of the committee are invited to attend the BoS meeting to hear feedback directly.
2. Jim Snyder Grant will prepare the 2020 contribution to the Annual Report.
3. Daphne Politis will prepare a draft executive summary before Christmas for the committee to review and finalize. It will include the broad themes that emerged as a result of the 2020 process, the goals and the recommended strategies.

Discussion about how to communicate the 2020 results to the public. Possibly creating a give-away that includes the key data (placemats for local restaurants ? posters?)

Next meeting will be on December 14th.

Minutes submitted by Paulina Knibbe