

Acton 2020 Implementation Committee ~ Minutes D R A F T

Date: March 7, 2013

Location: Town Hall, Rm 204

Attending: Kristen Domurad-Guichard (Planning Dept); Margaret Woolley Busse, Celia Kent (minutes-taker), Charlie Mercier, Mike Shailer (at School Ctee meeting for part of presentation), Kat Hudson; John Sonner (BoS liason, at School Ctee meeting for part of presentation); Steve Cecil, Eunice Kim (The Cecil Group)

1. Public Meeting : Kelley's Corner Public Form, Town Center Showcase. Margaret introduced Steve Cecil of the Cecil Group who described the proposed planning process, discussed case studies, and reviewed the budget request. Followed by question and answers/discussion.

Questions included:

- Why not study existing conditions, document constraints, and develop concepts first and wait on the more expensive engineering component?
- The case studies look "pie-in-the sky". How do they apply to Kelley's Corner? (esp. traffic)
- Will the scope of work include a study of TDR receiving areas?
- Won't new development generate more traffic and potentially unsafe conditions?
- What is the likelihood of getting the grant? How does it work?
- Will there be new roads through the residential area on Beverly Rd?
- What developers from the area are interested in this process?
- Will this process link to broader regional discussions about public transportation options?
- What will we get from our investment if we don't get the grant?
- How will the planning process be structured? Who will provide project management?

Comments included:

- Perhaps this effort will transform Kelley's Corner to a place you drive to rather than drive through (like Harvard Square, drivers will find alternative routes if not intending to spend time there)
- There are a lot of stormwater issues in Kelley's Corner. The infrastructure improvements will have a value even if there are no retail improvements.
- Especially looking forward to being able to park and then walk between shopping destinations.

Committee Meeting (~9:15)

2. Minutes approved from 2/13/13 and 2/27/13 with amendments
3. School Committee – John did a five minute presentation and there were no questions.
4. Debrief on Forum/Prepare for Town Meeting
 - Steve Cecil suggested that re-naming what we're doing the "Kelley's Corner Initiative", rather than "Kelley's Corner Project" would make it less likely that people will expect to see a plan to react to.
 - For next meeting, think about how will present at Town Meeting. Will likely have 10 minutes.
 - Be clearer about the multi-disciplinary approach to the process – how different disciplines inform each other
 - We are the stewards of our own future
 - A clear list of what we will get for this money
 - Is there a way to acknowledge the different points of view we've heard over the last two months and provide a response? (so people don't feel impelled to say it again, and to demonstrate that we really are listening)
 - Address questions about the previous studies – what they accomplished and how this one is different
5. Administrative Updates
 - Theresa Hoggins decided not to join the Committee. Two people who attended recent public meetings are potentially interested in joining the committee.
 - Margaret said we should discuss change of leadership at one of our upcoming meetings. We should vote on new chair and vice-chair. John suggested that the nature of the Committee's work will depend on the result of the Town Meeting vote so perhaps we should until after Town Meeting to discuss committee leadership. Note: Margaret is due early April and does not expect to attend Town Meeting.