

## 5.6 Special Provisions for the Kelley's Corner District

5.6.1 Purpose – In the Kelley's Corner District, the principal goal guiding the regulations set forth herein is to sustain and encourage a vital business center that provides needed goods, services, jobs and increased tax revenues in a manner that is compatible with Acton's historic development pattern and establishes pedestrian accessibility and circulation throughout the Kelley's Corner area. These regulations will provide clear guidance to those who would like to expand or locate businesses in the Kelley's Corner District. They will ensure that future development will help create the form, cohesion, order, and supporting infrastructure that will identify the Kelley's Corner District as an attractive, pleasant, and desirable center for business, shopping and other commercial and community activities.

Pedestrian access and circulation are favored in order to limit vehicular congestion and air pollution. Adjacent residential neighborhoods will be connected to the Kelley's Corner District via pedestrian ways but are otherwise separated with landscape buffers. In order to support the growth and vitality of the center, higher density developments are required to contribute to a fund for the construction of a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system serving the Kelley's Corner District and surrounding areas. The regulations are intended to implement the Kelley's Corner Plan as amended.

It is widely recognized that the mere provision of sidewalks and crosswalks will not encourage pedestrian use of a commercial area unless the layout and design of the sites and BUILDINGS are also conducive to pedestrian use. The leading design principles are therefore to provide convenient and efficient pedestrian access within the Kelley's Corner District and to surrounding neighborhoods and facilities, to provide a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment with walkways, pedestrian conveniences and amenities, and to encourage BUILDINGS with a pedestrian oriented scale and design.

5.6.2 The following standards shall apply to all LOTS in the KC District:

5.6.2.1 The Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority shall require sidewalks along the LOT'S FRONTAGE on a STREET or STREETS and walkways between BUILDING entrances and the nearest STREET or STREETS with minimal interruption by driveways. Parking lot aisles, and access and interior driveways do not count as walkways;

5.6.2.2 The Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority shall require driveway and walkway connections to abutting LOTS within the KC District. Where such connections are not available due to current conditions on abutting LOTS, provisions shall be required to connect to such abutting LOTS at a future date in locations determined by the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority;

5.6.2.3 The Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority shall require pedestrian connections to abutting neighborhoods and facilities outside the KC District. Where such connections are not available due to current conditions in the surrounding area, provisions shall be required for such connections at a future date in locations determined by the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority.

5.6.3 The following standards shall apply on all LOTS in the KC District where the FLOOR AREA RATIO exceeds 0.20:

5.6.3.1 The Sidewalk – A sidewalk shall be provided along the LOT'S FRONTAGE on a STREET or STREETS. The sidewalk shall be at least 10 feet wide. Sidewalks may be located wholly or partially within the STREET layout. The sidewalk shall be separated

from the vehicular roadway with a landscaped buffer at least 10 feet wide, which shall consist of shade trees placed at 40-45 foot intervals and other landscaping or STREET design elements, and which may consist in part of on-STREET vehicular parking spaces.

5.6.3.2 The Pedestrian Plaza – A pedestrian plaza shall be provided on any LOT where the NET FLOOR AREA is 30,000 square feet or more and the FLOOR AREA RATIO exceeds 0.35.

- a) The pedestrian plaza shall be an area at the STREET level in front of a BUILDING, on the side of a BUILDING, or in between BUILDINGS, which is to be used exclusively by pedestrians and connects to the sidewalk. For the purpose of this section, a pedestrian arcade located within a BUILDING footprint and open to the outdoors may be counted towards the minimum area required for a pedestrian plaza.
- b) A pedestrian plaza shall contain a minimum of 1,500 square feet in area and shall measure at least 20 feet in width. If the NET FLOOR AREA of the BUILDINGS on a LOT exceeds 100,000 square feet, the minimum area for a pedestrian plaza shall be 3,000 square feet. The area required for a sidewalk shall not be included in the pedestrian plaza.
- c) The pedestrian plaza shall be next to the STREET and sidewalk, and shall be open on one or more sides to the sidewalk.
- d) The pedestrian plaza shall be accented with pedestrian amenities such as benches and kiosks. Shade trees, ornamental trees and other landscaping shall be provided to create a separation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic, to highlight BUILDINGS and pedestrian spaces, to provide shelter from the sun, to minimize glare for drivers, to reduce noise, and to mitigate fumes.
- e) All landscaping shall use species that are tolerant to the climatic conditions in Acton and shall be designed to facilitate ongoing maintenance and watering.
- f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Bylaw to the contrary, the serving of foods and drinks at outdoor tables shall be permitted in a pedestrian plaza.

5.6.3.3 Driveways and Parking Lots –

- a) No driveway or parking lot shall be placed in the portion of a LOT that is directly in front of a BUILDING as seen from a STREET, whether or not the BUILDING is located on the same LOT as the driveway or parking lot, except that a driveway and parking lot may be placed in the front of a BUILDING that is located in the rear of another BUILDING when viewed from a STREET. No driveways or parking lots shall be located between a pedestrian plaza and a STREET, nor shall any driveway or parking lot intersect or be mixed with a pedestrian plaza.
- b) Vehicular driveways and parking lots may be located to the side and rear of BUILDINGS or to the rear of a pedestrian plaza.

5.6.3.4 BUILDING Design –

- a) At least 60 percent of the front side of a LOT facing a STREET, measured in percentage of linear feet of the LOT FRONTAGE, shall be occupied by BUILDINGS or by a pedestrian plaza that are located within 40 feet of the STREET sideline. A reduction of this requirement to 50 percent of the front side of a LOT may be allowed provided the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority finds that the alternative design features are consistent with Section 5.6.1 of this Bylaw.
- b) BUILDINGS shall be of a design similar to the architecture in historic commercial centers of New England in terms of scale, massing, roof shape, spacing and exterior materials. Alternative designs may be allowed provided the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority finds the alternative design is consistent with Section 5.6.1 of the Bylaw.

- c) BUILDING facades facing STREETS or pedestrian plazas are also referred to herein as the BUILDING front(s) or BUILDING front facade(s). Such BUILDING fronts shall have a vertical orientation, meaning either that the BUILDING shall actually have a greater height than width, or that the facades and roof lines of the BUILDING are designed to reduce the massing and bulk so that it appears as a group of smaller masses with a distinct vertical orientation.
- d) The BUILDING front facades shall be articulated to achieve a human scale and interest. The use of different textures, shadow lines, detailing and contrasting shapes is required. Not more than 50 feet of a BUILDING front shall be in the same vertical plane.
- e) The BUILDING front facade(s) shall be faced with materials used in historic New England architecture. Alternative materials may be used on the BUILDING front facade(s) provided that the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority finds the materials to be consistent with Section 5.6.1 of the Bylaw.
- f) On the BUILDING fronts, the ground floor shall be occupied, or designed to be available for occupancy, by Retail Stores; Restaurants; Hotel, Motel, Inn, Conference Center; Lodges or Clubs; Bed & Breakfast; Services; Commercial Entertainment; real estate agencies; insurance agencies; travel agencies; law offices; medical and dental offices; walk-in clinics; small equipment repair services; tailors; or photography studios.
- g) The main business entrance to each ground floor business, identified by the larger doors, signs, canopy or similar means of highlighting, shall be from the BUILDING front.
- h) Grocery retailers with a NET FLOOR AREA larger than 20,000 square feet may have a second main entrance in another location, for instance towards a parking lot in the rear or the side of a BUILDING.
- i) Arcades and canopies shall not be considered part of the BUILDING. Arcades and canopies may not be located within 10 feet of the sideline of a STREET unless the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority finds that the reduction in setback to the sideline of the STREET is consistent with Section 5.6.1 of the Bylaw.
- j) The BUILDING front(s) shall contain windows covering at least 15 percent of the facade surface. Windows shall be highlighted with frames, lintels and sills or equivalent trim features. Windows and doors shall be arranged to give the facade a sense of balance and symmetry.
- k) Except for ground level display windows, windows shall have a 2:1 ratio of height to width. Alternative window designs may be allowed provided the Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority finds them to be consistent with Section 5.6.1 of the Bylaw and that they enhance one or more architectural features.
- l) On the ground level portion of the BUILDING front, the amount of windows in the facade surface shall be at least 20 percent but not larger than 80 percent. Ground floor display windows shall be framed on all sides by the surrounding wall. They shall be highlighted with frames, lintels and sills or equivalent trim features, or may instead be recessed into the wall or projected from the wall.
- m) Mirror windows and highly reflective surfaces shall not be allowed on the BUILDING fronts.
- n) Roofs shall be gabled with a minimum pitch of 9/12 (9" vertical for every 12" horizontal) and have overhanging eaves of at least one foot. Two or three story BUILDINGS, or two or three story portions of a BUILDING, may have a flat roof provided that the tops of the BUILDING front facades are treated with an articulated cornice, dormers, or other architectural treatment that appears an integral part of the BUILDING from all visible sides of the BUILDING.

- o) The main features of the architectural treatment of the BUILDING front facades, including the materials used, shall be continued around all sides of the BUILDING that are visible from a STREET or a pedestrian plaza. The Site Plan Special Permit Granting Authority may approve alternate treatment of side and rear BUILDING walls that is consistent with Section 5.6.1 of the Bylaw and preserves the architectural integrity of the BUILDING as a whole.
- p) Garage doors or loading docks shall not be allowed in the BUILDING fronts.
- q) BUILDING service and loading areas shall incorporate effective techniques for visual and noise buffering from adjacent USES.
- r) Accessory STRUCTURES, air conditioning equipment, electric utility boxes, satellite dishes, trash receptacles and other ground level utilities shall be unobtrusive when viewed from the STREET and adjacent LOTS.
- s) Rooftop mechanical equipment shall be screened from public view by the use of architecturally compatible materials.