

On Thu, Sep 29, 2011 at 10:31 AM, Paulina Knibbe <p.knibbe@comcast.net> wrote:

Hi, guys. I wanted to bring this up last night but there wasn't a good moment to do so.

At Tuesday night's FinCom meeting, members expressed several concerns about the work that the 2020 committee is doing. I expect much of this is similar to what they said at our meeting last week. But I want to make sure that you know they feel quite strongly about this.

The primary concern they expressed is that the 2020 Strategies document at this point is very amorphous. They would like to see a lot more precision in what the recommendations are and some financial analysis to back them up. They were concerned about the lack of numbers.

Some concern was expressed about the difficulty of correlating the recommendations with specific functions of government.

Some specific comments:

The problem in Acton has never been a lack of ideas for good things to do. The problem is always the lack of funds to do them. This document is another listing of ideas without a plan to how to fund them.

Regionalization - this should be a broader look at many town / school functions to have real value. But implementation is extremely difficult.

The discussion of an economic development officer lacks a recognition of the scope of possibility in Acton. There is not a lot of open land for office parks, etc. Without significant new development possibilities, it is difficult to justify hiring an employee for economic development. (The FinCom seemed to feel that infill stuff wasn't enough to justify the added head count).

The current focus of the EDC has been on creating a business friendly environment to help keep existing businesses rather than attracting new businesses.

Many members of the FinCom want a much more detailed discussion before the FinCom votes a recommendation for Town Meeting.

A question was asked about the population projections. The projections for 2020 and 2030 show the number of kids growing at the same time as the number of families are dropping. This would indicate that we are predicting that family size will increase. Doesn't seem right...

2020

kids = $1,352 + 4,393 = 5745$

family formation = 7389

2030

kids = $1,452 + 4,493 = 5945$

family formation = 7277