

Acton 2020 Committee Minutes

Date: February 8, 2012, 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall, Rm 204

Attending: Sahana Purohit, Paulina Knibbe, Margaret Woolley Busse, Celia Kent (minutes-taker), Charlie Mercier (later), Kristin Alexander (Planning Dept), Daphne Politis (Community Circle), Jim Purdy (The Collaborative)

Guest: Ann Sussman

- I. Approved minutes of 1/25/12
- II. Ann Sussman comments

*New Design Review guidelines approved – scope includes mixed-use, commercial and residential developments of 4-or-more units.

*Presented some ideas for how to share the plan. Keep it short with focus on clarity of graphic story-telling.

*What she wants to know – what is the build-out in terms of population? What is the graph over time of tax rates? Does the increasing tax rate track with population growth? How would Acton attract economic development? What will make this more successful than 1998 plan?

Margaret – we understand that encouraging economic development is not just about zoning; Acton has to promote itself.

*Discussed the importance of looking at what be done with enterprise funds. Enterprise Funds means off-budget, not part of operating budget. Examples include Emerson Umbrella Arts Center in Concord, a Lincoln land trust turned which developed the buildings (post office, restaurant, etc) by train station. Can come from multiple sources. Paulina commented our transfer station operates that way. Should community center be set up as an enterprise fund? M agree interesting idea – not a level of detail that we're getting to. Roland – could describe more generally as private/public partnership. Daphne clarified the master plan provides the opportunity to identify the need and that we'll examine the funding structure during the implementation stage.

*Re planning – Acton has done more policy planning than design planning. Have to do both. Roland agrees – this plan calls for a more pro-active approach to design.

* Challenges. Ann thinks designing walkable business districts will be very difficult. Doesn't know of an example of an exurb that has done that in places where the road infrastructure doesn't already exist. Especially in Acton that doesn't have the sewers in place.

*Town governance. Recommend that we talk about what the plan doesn't cover – town governance. Acton is 13th largest school in MA, but every town with a larger school is closer to a city with representational town government (from DOE). M and Paulina agree – but issue has to be brought to BoS.

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III. Goal 7 action items.

Added actions related to retaining existing businesses as all our actions were about recruiting. Margaret said that Clint Seward suggested an action step – under promote fiscal responsibility – related to forming a technology committee to better leverage technology to partner with town staff in imagining new technology ways to reduce costs and improve services.

[Charlie comes in]

IV. A and B. Finalize high priority list and ripe list. Committee discussion on wording, prioritization, organization of information, and owners. Decided not to label actions “ripe” if not a town-driven activity.

V. Review revised plan. Margaret – in presenting the plan liked Ann’s point about highlighting the reasons the Roadmap is important, esp. with respect to size of school and our population ratios. Daphne commented that we shouldn’t over emphasize population and open space data since we are also trying to change the form of the town. Paulina – thinks the underlying themes communicate best the “why” of the plan. Committee agreed that the plan was ready to go out for public comment. It will be posted by Feb 15th and Margaret and committee members will send out emails to encourage people to review it. Margaret will send out a draft email we can each adapt.

VI. Publicity

- Margaret– will reach out to Beacon – goal publish by 2/16 so talk to them end of this week.
- 2 – pager. Distribute in libraries, senior center, town center. Make 50 copies. Tack up single flyers in shops, pizza places, Sweet Bites, etc. Kristin will manage the town distribution, Margaret will do the other places, and everyone should take copies and distribute when have a chance. Also want a few bound copies at libraries and town hall and senior center (2 in each spot – so 8). Committee can pick up copies of 2 pager 2/15 so can distribute.
- Charlie – what about a bookmark with a pointer to the web? We can leave stacks of them. Paulina – most important thing is to get people to town meeting. What about the bookmark in the Town Warrant?
- Reviewed draft email cover note to 2 pager.

VII. Project count -down

- Paulina – no agreement about the budget among the major committees. If we go to town meeting without an agreed upon budget, then could take days. Does think will hammer out an agreement before Town Meeting. Several items likely to generate a lot of discussion (nursing, regionalization, ...) So suspect will need all first day for budget

related items. John S seemed to think it could spill into Tuesday. We might have to say likely Tuesday, maybe Wednesday to vote on Acton 2020.

- Warrant – we wanted a removable flyer to insert. But we could get a one page part of the warrant.
- Feb 27 BoS going through all warrant articles. So need draft by then. M will email John to confirm whether need to present anything. Ctee meeting Feb 28. Article will be goals and objectives and the summary was going to be the roadmap summary. Kristin work on. Daphne/Jim will make sure Kirsten has the most updated text in word format.
- Any changes to database must be made by Friday.
- No meeting next Wednesday.
- March 6th public event – start time 7:00-9:00.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Xerox DocuShare interface. The page title is "02-08-2012 Meeting Documents". The breadcrumb trail is: Home > Public Meetings > Acton 2020 Committee > 2012 Meetings > 02-08-2012 Meeting Documents Listing. The main content area displays a table of documents with columns for checkboxes, icons, titles, owners, edit dates, and sizes. Below the table are navigation links like "Home", "Content Map", and "What's New".

<input type="checkbox"/>	Type	Title	Owner	Edited	Size
<input type="checkbox"/>		00 - 2-8-12 Acton 2020 Committee Meeting Agenda	kalexander	02/03/12	156 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>		010 - I. - 1-25-12 Acton 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft	kalexander	02/08/12	14 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>		030 - III. - Implementation Plan Notes - JSG E-mail - 2-8-12	kalexander	02/08/12	16 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>		042 - IV a. - Implementation Items - High Priority list	kalexander	02/07/12	0
<input type="checkbox"/>		044 - IV b. - Implementation Items - Rippe list	kalexander	02/07/12	0
<input type="checkbox"/>		050 - V. - Acton Community Plan - Draft - 2-3-12	kalexander	02/07/12	0 MB
<input type="checkbox"/>		064 - VI c. - March 6 and ATM Publicity - Draft E-mail - MWB - 2-8-12	kalexander	02/08/12	12 KB
<input type="checkbox"/>		070 - VII. - Project Countdown - 1-25-12	kalexander	02/03/12	52 KB