

Acton 2020 Committee

MINUTES

11/14/2012

8:00PM-11:00PM

ACTON TOWN HALL RM 204

CHAIR	Margaret Busse
NOTE TAKER	Michael Shailer
ATTENDEES	Sahana Purohit, Margaret Woolley Busse, Celia Kent, Mike Shailer, John Sonner, Roland Bartl

Action Items

1. Kristen Domurad-Guichard (Planning Department) will draft initial Kelly's Corner presentation.
2. Margaret will coordinate and reach out to committees for Kelly's Corner presentation.
3. Mike will follow-up with Mark Hald on grant tracking options.
4. Mike to follow-up with Mark Hald regarding alternate Web site options.
5. Margaret will reach out to Steve Ledoux to discuss regionalization opportunities and hurdles.
6. Celia will facilitate sign by-law next steps, reaching out to design review board for assistance, as needed.
7. Margaret to continue Kelly's Corner business outreach efforts.
8. Margaret will investigate moving next scheduled 2020 meeting to 11/27.

Minutes

- I. Welcome and introductions
- II. Minutes were approved with amendments
 - a. Reassigned IV.g (Involving teens in town governance)
 - b. Date on minutes amended to 10-24-12
- III. Update from liaisons - Ripe Apple Items
 - a. Kelly's Corner Business Outreach (action item IV.d): Margaret to continue outreach efforts after non-responsive first avenues.
 - b. Explore Regionalization (action item IV.f): Margaret to reach out to Steve Ledoux to discuss opportunities and hurdles.
 - i. John S notes state incentive for regionalization (Community Incentive Grant Program, CIG) for anything education or public safety-related programs. Regionalization discussed with Concord, Sudbury, Lincoln, and Weston about 1 year ago. No surrounding town has expressed continued interest.
 - ii. Roland notes regional shuttle service application (Nov 30 deadline) for Maynard, Littleton, Stow, and Boxborough.
 - iii. School regionalization discussed; not found compelling from earlier meetings per Margaret.
 - c. Simplify Sign Bylaw (action item IV.i): Celia/Roland discussed. Opportunity to simplify and improve current bylaw with illustrations. Celia to facilitate next steps, reaching out to design review board for assistance, as needed.
 - d. Technology Improvements (action item IV.h): Mike reviewed all technology-related items from 2020 plan with Mark Hald.
 - i. 2020 Plan 4.1.3.1: Reservations calendar due for beta in Winter 2013.
 - ii. 2020 Plan 6.4.1.1: Further improvements to town Web site to be discussed with IT. Payment notifications complete.

- iii. 2020 Plan 6.4.1.2: Municipal and school IT actively meeting. No governing technology committee exists. Should such be desired, it will require a sponsor.
 - iv. 2020 Plan 7.1.2.2: No grant/funding share capabilities currently in play. Options include bulletin board or coordinator efforts. Mike to follow up with Mark.
 - v. 2020 Plan 7.3.1.2: Town meeting approved digitization of permit process; project will be a multi-year effort.
 - vi. Discussed hosting options for committee Web sites. Mike to follow up with Mark regarding alternate Web site options.
- e. Green Acton (action item IV.e): Sahana to report progress at next meeting.

IV. Discuss Old Kelley's Corner Plan and Determine Key Learnings

- a. Discussed 1995 plan with respect to 2012 reality. Key takeaways:
 - i. Future plans would benefit from being highly visual.
 - ii. Plan called for higher density approach thwarted by results of traffic studies. Zoning action taken at recommendation.
 - iii. Plan projected higher confidence in commercial development and employment. 1990 plan biased against business development, overcompensated for in subsequent planning.
- b. Town Planning Timelines:
 - i. 1990: Master town plan (mentions Kelly's corner)
 - ii. 1995: Kelly's corner mostly passed; zoning adopted; recognized zoning changes insufficient to affect change; additional fund/studies appropriated for traffic
 - iii. 1997: Recommended higher density zoning; transferred development rights; planning board rejected bringing zoning changes to town meeting
 - iv. 2001: Revised plan
 - v. 2010: Open neighborhood project
- c. Conclusion:
 - i. Lesson learned – focus more on town outreach than opposition
 - ii. Celia will continue review

V. Administrative Update

- a. Mass Works grant: not awarded in first round, money to Boston and gateway cities; meeting requested to review applications wants vs needs
- b. Meeting request to Stephen Ledoux regarding Kelly's Corner funding. Funding request (\$277k) for urban design consult and public infrastructure improvement plan to reach 25% design for a competitive Mass Works bid.
- c. Currently funding is not approved.
 - i. Discussed challenge of having included in next town budget
 - ii. Urban design consult estimate at 60-70K.
 - iii. Team discussed approach for funding request
 - 1. Agreed to reach out and present to Fin Com, EDC, Board of Selectman, and Planning Board. Margaret will coordinate and reach out to committees.
 - 2. Kristen Domurad-Guichard (Planning Department) will draft initial Kelly's Corner presentation.
- d. Roland and Kristen attended Housing conference – Gov. Patrick rental housing initiative
 - i. Benefit Acton to be proactive
- e. Dec 31st deadline for Acton 2020 annual report

VI. Kelley's Corner Presentation

- a. Discussed potential talking points:

- i. Acton 2020 history and momentum
 - ii. Opportunity vs. inaction
 - iii. Is this bondable (infrastructure development)
 - iv. Technical assistance grant
- b. Margaret will investigate moving next scheduled 2020 meeting to 11/27 to accommodate know meeting conflicts.

- VII. Next Meeting Proposed Agenda Topics
 - a. Review draft presentation
 - b. Review 2020 Web site