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SEP 29 2012

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Acton 2020 Implementation Committee ~ Minutes

Date: October 10, 2012, 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall, Rm 204

Attending: Roland Bartl and Kristen Domurad-Guichard (Planning Dept), Margaret Woolley Busse, Celia Kent (minutes-taker), Charlie Mercier, Sahana Purohit, John Sonner (BoS), Jamie Watt (membership pending)

1. Approved minutes from 9-5-12 meeting with corrections
2. Kelley's Corner

Kristen reviewed the grants the Town has applied for. The Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Program application is for technical assistance to provide a design framework for further development of Kelly's Corner as a walkable town center (\$10,000). Completion of this work would help prepare the case for a Town Meeting request for further design funding. The goal of that funding is to hire consultants to help us create development design standards, reform regulatory/zoning codes, and prepare a design plan for reconstruction and modernization of Kelley's Corner infrastructure. The level of design detail will allow the Town to apply for a \$3M Mass Works Infrastructure grant to complete the design and pay for construction.

Margaret pointed out that the grant application indicates that Town Meeting adopted the Acton 2020 Comprehensive Community Plan when actually Town Meeting adopted the goals and objectives.

The last Kelley's Corner plan (~ 2001) was not supported at Town Meeting. We should review that plan and discuss what's different about our current effort.

TO DO: Kristen will send committee members a link to the earlier plan. Everyone should review it before the next meeting.

Roland indicated that the agenda for the next BoS meeting includes a discussion with a developer who is interested in building a new CVS where the Good Year Tire is now. Roland has met with the developer, Rich Maddox, and discussed the Town's interests in pedestrian friendly design (e.g. building near street edge with parking at rear rather than a more typical strip mall arrangement with parking in front). Maddox and his partner, Vinny Catone (sp?), owns the TD Bank property, Goodyear, and land behind Acton Dental. He participated in the 2001 Kelley's Corner project. He would like to provide a drive-through pharmacy and says that CVS wants parking in front, but the project is still at the discussion stage.

Margaret suggested reassembling the Kelley's Corner business owners for a second meeting (following up on a meeting earlier with the Acton2020 Committee).

3. Timing –

October – December 2012 Review past studies and meet with stakeholders

January – March 2013 Technical assistance grant tasks (assuming we get the grant). Prepare for Town meeting

Town Meeting 2013 – Report on work achieved thus far, request Kelley’s Corner design funding and perhaps also funds for the new Economic Development staff person. It would be helpful if there could be some small visual improvement in Kelley’s Corner. A sign??

July 2013– Assuming that receive design funding, can begin work.

Town Meeting 2014 – Can aim to have zoning changes to request (Roland cautioned that may be too ambitious as we need to allow time for public outreach process).

~2015 – submit grant to Mass DOT. If receive \$, then will take approximately one more year to finish the design before construction can begin.

~2016 – 2017 – approx. one year construction

4. Ripe Apples

The Committee reviewed the higher priority tasks labeled Ripe Apples. In most cases, we need to reach out to the relevant Boards/Committees to discuss how these tasks can best move forward. In some cases these tasks are simply works in progress which we can help document and in other cases we may need to encourage/help organize activity around that task. The “Owner” column needs to be updated in some instances.

- TAC – what is their sense of timing for moving forward on a fixed route or expanded transportation service?
- Open Space Committee – work with them on the idea of purchasing development rights that can be sold to protect open space
- Kelley’s Corner Business Association. Schedule another meeting to encourage the formation of a KC business association.
- Transfer Station waste reduction – should check in with Green Acton. The Board of Health is listed under Owner but Roland doesn’t think this is their responsibility.
- Technology Improvements, One-stop reservations and calendar – check in with Mark Hald
- Explore Regionalization – Roland suggest BoS and Town Manager would ultimately be responsible for this. The first step would be to meet with Steve LeDoux. Also discuss strategies for involving teens in town governance.
- Water use – check in with Matt Mosteller
- Green Acton, the Green Advisory Board, and the Board of Health are relevant for several of the tasks.
- Pedestrian and Bike maps – IT and Planning with input from Engineering and Land Stewardship Committee. The goal is to get pedestrian and bike connections all one readable map. Could that be a High School course project?
- Simplify sign bylaw – Is this really a ripe apple? It would be helpful if there were a graphic design illustration of the different sign options.

5. Next Steps

Margaret indicated she was willing to be chair until Town Meeting (or until she gives birth to her new child, whichever comes first... CONGRATULATIONS Margaret !)

Next meeting we'll discuss 1) the previous plans relating to Kelley's Corner, 2) Assign tasks related to Ripe Apples, and [added post meeting] 3) briefing on TAC Meeting (Charlie) and Joint Financial Planning meeting with Acton/Boxborough BOS, Finance Ctees, School Committees, Town staff (Celia)