

Minutes, Acton 2020 Working Group

Minutes taker: Eric Solomon

October 22, 2014

Acton 2020 hosted a meeting that included several other Town of Acton boards and committees to understand and coordinate status and activities. The following is a reflection of what was discussed.

In attendance

Members: Andy Brockway, Kat Hudson, Vickie Wallin, John Sonner, Eric Solomon

Town Staff: Roland Bartl, Kristin Guichard

Members of other town committees are listed below.

Green Acton, Deborah Simes

Working on solid waste issues

Mentioned working with Cory York, Town Engineer

Green Acton mail list

Nancy Tavernier, Acton Community Housing Corp

Described what they do

Acton has 54 Units Affordable Housing (ownership units)

Housing gift funds plus CPA funds contribute to what they can do

One goal to support diversity.

Housing production plan is underway, ACHC is working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Counsel. The plan will be owned by BoS and Planning Board

Currently Acton is at 6.5% toward a goal of 10% affordable housing (includes rentals and AHA units)

With the Avalon project we have 530 units and would need 850 more to reach 10%. There isn't much chance we will reach 10%.

Hosting a Dec 11 meeting at town hall on the housing production plan.

The Massachusetts Housing Data portal, www.housing.ma - has a lot of good info.

Concord is at 10%.

Kathy Acerbo Bachmann

Historic District Commission

About 200 properties in three historic districts

Mission is education, preserving houses, enhancing landscaping around properties.

Also oversees signage, each district has its own signage regulations as well as the town's zoning regulations for signs.

Oversees modifications to existing historical buildings

There's also an HC - Historical Commission, who oversee properties on cultural

resources list outside of historical district who works with MHC (Mass Historical Commission).

Peter Darlow, Holly Ben-Joseph, Design Review Board

Focuses on new construction, special permits

Help guide development

Only has an advisory role, hope to change in the future to be more than advisory

Commercial projects, residential only with 4 units or above

Looks at site plans, landscaping

Goal is to maintain Town's character

Also would like to get involved with renovations, such as Roche Bros plaza

Terry Maitland, Open Space Committee

Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Acton Conservation Trust & Community Preservation Committee

Open Space Committee works toward acquiring land with Community Preservation (CPA) funds.

Works with conservation Commission

PCRC- Planned Conservation Residential Community is a development option under Acton zoning that also helps preserve open space lands.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends the Town's projects and initiatives funded with CPA funds (local surcharge on tax bill plus State funds)

Community Preservation includes a Conservation Commission member by law.

Purposes of CPA (by law) are open space, community housing, recreation, and historic preservation

Transportation Committee, Bengt Muten

Advises town

Starting to focus on bike friendly, complete Streets

Various shuttles. COA, LRTA, Minuteman, they now all have the dispatch system

Discussions with neighboring towns, cross town connect idea

Andy, Kat suggested that 2020 can possibly help with education

Finance, Margaret Busse

Discussing stabilization funds & set aside funds

Town has \$10 million in reserves

Andy mentioned that EDC is focusing on West Acton

Suggested that 2020 could serve as a central repository of what other committees are doing

Publicize, host events

2020 role is education, facilitation

2020 Implementation Committee is actually a new committee