

Kelley's Corner Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – 14 November 2018

These are the meeting minutes from the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place at 7:00 am on 14 November 2018 in Room 204 at the Acton Town Hall.

Present: Andy Brockway, Bob Van Meter, Christi Andersen, Dean Charter, Derrick Chin, Erin Bettez, Larry Kenah, Peter Darlow

Not Present:

Board of Selectmen: Jon Benson

Town of Acton: Kristen Guichard (Planning Department), John Mangiaratti (Town Manager)

Several people joined us at this meeting.

- Eric Solomon, a former member of KCSC
- David Manalan, a resident in one of the Kelley's Corner neighborhoods
- Pat Clifford
- Danny Factor

KCSC Membership

Jon Benson let us know that Pat Clifford, former member of the Finance Committee, would be joining KCSC.

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 am by Andy Brockway.

Attendees

Meeting Summary

The purpose of this meeting was to learn about the most recent meeting and correspondence between the Town and representatives of MassDOT. Members also learned about other updates to the project.

- Comment resolution meeting with MassDOT
- Hosmer House
- Route 27 (Main Street) alignment at Mass Ave (next to Bueno y Sano)

Comment Resolution Meeting with MassDOT

Several people from the Town of Acton met with representatives from MassDOT for a comment resolution meeting.

The Town was represented by

- Corey York
- John Mangiaratti
- Kristen Guichard
- Matthew "Selby" Selby
- Roland Bartl

Key Points

Kristen Guichard provided an update from the Comment Resolution Meeting with MassDOT.

- The Town's letter that described commitments to control costs was well received.
- A traffic signal at Charter Road has been approved.
- There will be no traffic signal at Community Lane and Main Street but there will be two flashing pedestrian lights on Route 27 (Main Street).
 - One will be located at this intersection.
 - A second will be located to the north by Hosmer House and Not Your Average Joe's where students cross Route 27.
- Pedestrian lighting still under discussion.
- MassDOT is OK with raised landscaped traffic islands instead of painted roadways but the town must maintain them.
- MassDOT gave its approval to pursue Alternative 2 to shift Main Street to the west minimizing impact to the property at 263 Main Street (Bueno y Sano).
- MassDOT prefers black asphalt but they are OK with concrete sidewalks.
- We received a commitment from MassDOT to try and meet the Town's goal of holding the 25% plan public hearing prior to town meeting in April.
- No full re-submission of the 25% plan is required, just partial updates to reflect these changes.

MassDOT provided direction on how to proceed with the Historical Society property (Hosmer House).

Hosmer House

There was a lengthy discussion about the impact of this project on Hosmer House. Here are the key points from the discussion.

- Both the Acton Historical Commission (AHC) and the Acton Historical Society (AHS) are opposed to the plan in its existing form. The primary reason is that the current plan takes away two feet of property to accommodate sidewalk, bike lane, and other requirements.
- Kristen shared a concept plan from Dale Design, the Historical Society's landscape architect working on their CPA project, but it is not currently supported by AHS so the Town cannot incorporate it into the plans without their support because it includes a sidewalk on their property.

- Because AHS and AHC are not comfortable with any of the alternative plans showing work on their property, the roadway has been shifted off the property entirely (moved two feet to the east, closer to the parking lot and stores.
- There are design implications to moving the roadway. Street trees and buffers will be removed in this location of the plan because there is not enough room.

While other decisions seem to be falling onto place, the design near Hosmer House is still up in the air. The Town is continuing to work with the AHS and AHC to address their concerns and achieve the community's vision for Kelley's Corner. John Mangiaratti will be meeting with them later this week.

Route 27 (Main Street) alignment at Mass Ave (next to Bueno y Sano)

In earlier meetings, we briefly discussed moving Main Street south of Mass Ave to the west to preserve some of the parking spaces at Bueno y Sano. GPI had indicated that such a move was unsafe. MassDOT reviewed the analysis and has determined that the proposed move was "not unsafe" and approved the shift. We will move forward with a revised plan that moves the roadway to the west.

Comments from Others

Danny Factor (Green Acton)

- Green Acton is looking for a response to their letter from May 2018.
 - John Mangiaratti indicated he would be submitting a response to their letter before Thanksgiving.
- Danny asked what would happen to comments made at the 25% plan public hearing.
- Danny also mentioned that early morning meetings were difficult for many people to attend.
 - Andy Brockway indicated that KCSC understands and supports that position but last minute scheduling constraints forced this particular meeting to take place in the early morning.

David Manalan

David asked if documents like the 25% plan or the safety plan are publicly available. Kristen pointed out that there is a Kelley's Corner Project area on the town Web site.

<https://ma-acton2.civicplus.com/628/Kelleys-Corner-Project>

These documents and many others can be located starting at this page.

Next Meetings

There are no future meetings scheduled for the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee but Kristen Guichard indicated that she will work with committee members to schedule a next KCSC meeting in early December.

In Closing

This meeting adjourned at 8:20 am.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah.