

Kelley's Corner Steering Committee

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Meeting Minutes – 14 May 2014

These are the meeting minutes from the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 14 May 2014 at the Acton Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Andy Brockway.

Present: Andrew Brockway, Bonny Nothern, Eric Solomon, Larry Kenah, Margaret Busse, Peter Darlow, Rob Bukowski

Not Present: J D Head

Planning Department: Kristen Domurad-Guichard, Roland Bartl

Document Links

Meeting Handouts

Three separate handouts from this meeting are posted on the town's document repository.

- Slides presented at the meeting by Jason DeGray and Ken Buckland
 - <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-45390/GPI%20Kelleys%20Corner%20Steering%20Committee%20May%2014%2014%20Part%20I%20PPT.pdf>
- Pictures and feedback from public meetings held on 7 May (workshop) and 10 May (open house)
 - <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-45389/Kelleys%20Corner%20Steering%20Committee%20May%2014%2014%20Part%20II%20PPT.pdf>
- Stakeholder Input document
 - <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-44869/2014-05-16%20Stakeholder%20Input.pdf>

TAP Report

An e-mail message from Kristen Domurad-Guichard reminded us of the availability of the written report from the Boston Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Program.

"On February 10, 2014 the Boston Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Program conducted a one day comprehensive study of Kelley's Corner. Their final report has been submitted and can be viewed at the link below."

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-45606/ULI%20Boston%20Technical%20Assistance%20Panel%20-%20Acton%20FINAL%20REPORT%2005-29-14.pdf>

Meeting Summary

Attendees

All members of the committee except J D Head attended the meeting.

The Cecil Group team was represented by:

- Steve Cecil – The Cecil Group – Project Director
- Ken Buckland – The Cecil Group – Project Manager
- Jason DeGray – Greenman-Pederson, Inc – Traffic Engineering

Vincent Cuttone, an owner of some of the Kelley's Corner property, also attended the meeting.

Committee Business

The minutes from 9 April 2014 were approved.

Public Meetings

There was a short discussion about the two public meetings that took place the previous week.

Workshop (7 May)

A workshop took place on Wednesday evening, 7 May. Approximately fifty people attended this meeting at the Parker Damon Building. After a brief introduction where first Andy Brockway and then Steve Cecil and Ken Buckland described the Kelley's Corner Initiative, we broke into small groups of about ten people per table. Each group explored current use of Kelley's Corner with an emphasis on driving patterns into Kelley's Corner. People then expressed ten-year visions for Kelley's Corner. The results of these two exercises are included in the Stakeholder Input document mentioned earlier in these notes.

Open House (10 May)

An open house took place the following Saturday morning, 10 May. Between twenty and thirty people stopped by to talk about their Kelley's Corner concerns. About half of these people came specifically because of Kelley's Corner concerns. The others were drop-by visitors who were attending the indoor yard sale sponsored by the two schools housed in the Parker Damon Building.

Presentation by Cecil Group et al.

Traffic Studies

Earlier notes mentioned traffic studies that took place over the course of several weeks. Jason DeGray presented some preliminary conclusions from these studies.

- Data from all of the time intervals included in the data gathering exercise show between 10% and 20% decrease in overall traffic volume when compared with 1996 numbers.

- The problems in Kelley's Corner are not overall volume but rather traffic management.
 - One factor that contributes to congestion is the number of people making left turns into one of the many driveways in Kelley's Corner.
 - Left hand turns from Route 27 to Route 111 also affect overall traffic flow, especially during rush hour.
- The signal system is a simple three-phase signal that is used throughout the 24-hour period.
 - That is, there are no variations in the signal rules that depend on time of day.
- Unlike many surrounding towns, traffic volume late Saturday morning does not represent peak volume.
- Although not explicitly measured in this study, data from earlier studies suggest that approximately 80% of rush hour traffic is "through" traffic as opposed to "to" traffic.

Stakeholder Input

Ken Buckland summarized stakeholder input gathered from two sources.

- The first represented comments from the two public meetings held on 7 May and 10 May.
- The second was gathered from meetings with specific stakeholders during a period of several weeks.

The document containing all of these comments can be located on the town's document repository.

Vision and Alternatives

The Cecil Group will present preliminary alternatives at the June meeting.

- Land use is focused on specific zoning recommendations.
- Infrastructure recommendations will focus on traffic management.

Upcoming Meetings

- The next public meeting will take place on Thursday, 10 July, from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm.
- The KCSC meeting scheduled for 9 July will not take place.

Item of Note

The Transportation Bond Bill passed the state legislature with an earmark of \$3M for Kelley's Corner improvements.

In Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah.