

Kelley's Corner Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – 13 December 2018

These are the meeting minutes from the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place at 7:30 pm on 13 December 2018 in Room 126 at the Acton Town Hall.

Present: Christi Andersen, Dean Charter, Derrick Chin, Erin Bettez, Larry Kenah, Pat Clifford, Peter Darlow

Not Present: Andy Brockway, Bob Van Meter

Board of Selectmen: Jon Benson (KCSC)

Town of Acton: Detective Chris Prehl (Safety Officer), Kristen Guichard (Planning Department), John Mangiaratti (Town Manager), Roland Bartl (Planning Department)

Other people joined us for this meeting.

- David Manalan, a resident in one of the Kelley's Corner neighborhoods
- Danny Factor, Green Acton (at 8:30)
- Terra Friedrichs
- Lauren Rosenzweig Morton
- Sahana Purohit

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Peter Darlow.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved for the following meetings.

- 30 November 2018 (most recent KCSC meeting)
- 5 March 2018 (with minor changes)

Meeting Goals

There were two part of the outreach discussion.

- Jon Benson talked about the general focus of outreach efforts for bringing articles to Spring Town Meeting.
- Kristen Guichard presented the most recent overview and details of the Kelley's Corner Improvement Initiative.

Outreach Efforts

Jon Benson introduced Lauren Morton and Sahana Purohit who are helping him and John Mangiaratti with the outreach efforts. Initial efforts would focus on the Board of Selectmen, the FinCom, and the schools. Next steps would include

- This committee (KCSC)
- The old and new Acton 2020
- The various school PTSOs but especially the local school campuses (McT, Merriam, RJGJHS, and ABRHS)
- Kelley's Corner neighborhoods
- Other town boards and committees including Planning Board, Economic Development Committee, and so on.

Tools for outreach include social media and Acton TV.

Questions and Comments

John Mangiaratti recommended that the committee approach social media cautiously as part of its outreach effort.

The outreach team is working on a FAQ for the Kelley's Corner Improvement Initiative. This can be used at the outreach sessions and also at Spring 2019 Town Meeting.

Town Meeting

While the overall plan for Kelley's Corner forms the basis for the outreach efforts, the actual article (or articles) for Spring 2019 Town Meeting are about funding.

- One piece of funding will cover appraisal fees for property to accommodate wider roadways and similar property acquisition. Some of these fees will be assumed by the state (see below). The actual number is expected to be about the same as the number from last year.
- A second funding request covers additional engineering work such as the Charter Road intersection. Other changes were made as a result of feedback from stakeholders (Hosmer House, owners of Bueno y Sano property, etc). This number will be larger than last year's number.

Presentation

Kristen's slides can be found on docushare at <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-10580>. Here are some key points from Kristen that will be emphasized through the public outreach efforts.

- The plan has seen considerable changes since it was first unveiled. Many of these changes were the result from previous public meetings and public forums.
- A most recent change involves moving Main Street just south of Mass Ave to the west. This overlaps the existing Verizon parking lot but preserves nearly all of the parking spots for Bueno y Sano.

Safety

One of the key goals of the Kelley's Corner Improvement Initiative is safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles. Detective Chris Prehl, Safety Officer for the Town of Acton, assisted Kristen in this part of the presentation.

In the context of safety, Larry Kenah asked about no traffic signal at the intersection of Community Lane and Main Street. The various words that accompany the decision talk about approaching this intersection on Community Lane (right-hand turn only) or on Main Street from the south. They do not address approaching the intersection on Main Street from the north.

With the elimination of a left hand turn at the intersection of Main Street and Mass Ave, this intersection is the only way to reach the Route 2 on-ramp. It is also used by motorists heading to Roche Brothers and neighboring stores. Without a signal, there may be backups that affect all southbound traffic on Main Street. Kristen said that she would pass along this concern to GPI.

Feedback

There were two slide sequences (6 to 7 and 11 to 12) where a picture of the current state of a roadway was followed by an artist's rendition of the roadway at the completion of the project showing sidewalks, buffer zones, bike lanes, and so on. Committee members found this approach helpful and effective and recommended one or two similar slide sequences.

Slide 8 was both very helpful and slightly confusing.

- The purpose of the slide was an illustration of existing and replacement crosswalks. The current crosswalks are not at right angles to the roadways and are mostly longer than the replacement crosswalks. Two of the replacement sidewalks are slightly longer (+5 and +3 feet) but the other two are significantly shorter (-8 and -25 feet).
- Because the planned roadways are drawn on top of an existing photograph, the southbound lanes of Route 27 south of Mass Ave seem to have disappeared! We recommended that this confusion be addressed in later iterations of the slide set.

Peter Darlow reminded everyone that one of the early goals of the Kelley's Corner Improvement Initiative was to create an identity or "sense of place" for Kelley's Corner. This goal has contributed to some of the choices that have gone into development of the overall plan.

Ownership and Responsibility

The state is responsible for Route 111 (Mass Ave) and slightly to the north and south along Main Street. Thus, the state is responsible for all of the property of the Sunoco station, Bueno y Sano, and Verizon. Responsibility means that the state will pay for the appraisals for any takings. It will also pay for the actual property acquisition itself.

The town is responsible for the remaining property along Main Street and all of Community Lane.

Questions

Larry Kenah recalled that the two funding requests (appraisal fees and additional engineering costs) were bundled into a single article at Spring 2018 Town Meeting as bonded funding. This required a 2/3

vote. He asked about the approach this time around. John Mangiaratti said that the details were still being worked out.

Next Steps

Kristen pointed out one more time that we would like the MassDOT public hearing on the modified 25% plan to take place in March 2019, before Spring 2019 Town Meeting.

Other Discussion

Danny Factor from Green Acton thanked John Mangiaratti for the Town's response to Green Acton's letter about Kelley's Corner.

David Manalan has expressed interest in joining KCSC.

Next Meetings

Kristen will send a Doodle poll to KCSC members to find a time for the next meeting sometime in early January 2019.

In Closing

This meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah.