

Kelley's Corner Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – 15 January 2019

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 15 January 2019 in Room 126 at the Acton Town Hall.

Present: Andy Brockway, Bob Van Meter, Derrick Chin, Erin Bettez, Larry Kenah, Pat Clifford, Peter Darlow

Not Present: Christi Andersen, Dean Charter

Board of Selectmen: Jon Benson (KCSC)

Town of Acton: Kristen Guichard (Planning Department)

Other people joined us for this meeting.

- Danny Factor, Green Acton
- Sahana Purohit
- Terra Friedrichs (at 7:50)

Committee Items

There is a set of pages on the town Web site dedicated to the Kelley's Corner Project.

<http://actonma.gov/KC>

David Manalan, who lives in the Kelley's Corner neighborhood, will be joining the committee as an associate member.

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Andy Brockway.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved for the following meetings.

- 13 December 2018 (most recent KCSC meeting)
- 30 August 2017
- 7 September 2017 (with one edit)
- 21 September 2017 (with three minor edits)

Upcoming Dates

MassDOT Public Forum

The MassDOT Public Forum will be held on **5 March 2019 at 7:00 pm** in the evening.

All members of the committee are invited and encouraged to actively participate.

Public Outreach Events

Jon Benson listed the outreach events scheduled for the next several weeks. Sahana Purohit and Lauren Rozenzweig Morton have been helping Jon to organize the outreach efforts.

- FinCom
 - 22 January
 - Chris Prehl (Acton Safety Officer) and Kristen Guichard will present.
- Several coffee gatherings in people's homes
 - 23 January (Andy Brockway will present)
 - 30 January
 - 27 February
- League of Women Voters (LWV)
 - 28 February
 - 7:30 pm in Room 204 of Town Hall
- Acton Chinese School
 - 3 March
 - 2:45 pm at RJGJHS
- John Mangiaratti will describe the project on Acton TV.
 - UNKNOWN date
- Lauren Morton at Congregation Beth Elohim
 - UNKNOWN date

The LWV event in this list is dedicated to Kelley's Corner and is distinct from the regular LWV warrant meeting that takes place every year before town meeting.

Kristen mentioned two public meetings informally described as "gallery walks". They are tentatively scheduled for

- 12 March
- 19 March

Jon asked committee members if anyone else is willing to host a coffee or similar social gathering.

Bob Van Meter suggested that another visit to the Senior Center might be helpful.

Communication

John Mangiaratti, Acton Town Manager, sent a letter to the Acton Commission on Disabilities that addressed the safety and accessibility improvements included in the Kelley's Corner Infrastructure Plan. The letter responded to a series of concerns raised by Green Acton at the meeting of Acton Commission

on Disabilities that took place on 18 December 2018. A link to the town manager's letter can be found on the Kelley's Corner Project page mentioned earlier in these notes (actonma.gov/KC).

John Mangiaratti communicated with Chris Starr and Chris Bailey, owners of the property where Bueno y Sano is located, with a revised drawing of their property after the roadway (Route 27) was moved to the west towards the Verizon building. This latest picture shows twelve parking spaces. This may not be the final state but nearly all of the parking spaces will be preserved.

Kristen told us the latest good news about Hosmer House. The Acton Historical Commission and the Acton Historical Society have agreed on a recent iteration of the plan. The key points are

- No stone wall
- Grading from the sidewalk up to the building
- No impact on Hosmer House itself
- No takings

As a result of these changes, "we have their support".

Outreach Messages

Several times during the meeting, members recited the key themes of the Kelley's Corner Improvement Initiative. The first such list stressed

- Kelley's Corner as an easily identified town center
- A focus on safety and accessibility
- Reduction of congestion and improved traffic flow

Andy Brockway talked about how many outreach efforts since last year's town meeting have addressed specific concerns including

- Length of crosswalks
- Removal of Trees
- Impact of proposed design on Bueno y Sano property
- Impact of proposed design on Hosmer House

He reminded all of us not to lose sight of "the whole" while we focus on "the parts". He elaborated on the overall approach that we have taken since the project started. All of the pieces (safety, accessibility, walkability, reduced congestion, landscaping, etc) contribute to the development of Kelley's Corner as an identifiable town center.

A later list of themes for the outreach efforts included

- Efficiency
- Safety
- Accessibility
- Town center

Outreach Tools

Sahana Purohit mentioned a video developed by Acton 2020 ("What would Acton be like if you didn't exist?") as a model that we might use for some of the outreach efforts. She sent a link to committee members after the meeting.

Kristen elaborated on her ideas of a gallery walk, held perhaps in Room 204. There would be four stations around the perimeter of the room addressing four themes. In the center of the room, there would be a large map of Kelley's Corner lying on the floor that would actually allow people to "walk the plan". This would make the results of the project more meaningful than bullets on a slide.

Next Meetings

Kristen will send a Doodle poll to KCSC members to find a time for the next meeting sometime before school vacation week (18 February through 22 February).

In Closing

This meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah.