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## SENIOR CENTER

There were approximately forty (40) participants in a mini-visioning session held at the Senior Center. Seniors were asked to respond to a number of questions, some of them were the same questions asked of other groups in town, others were related specifically to being a senior in Acton.

Participants were asked to briefly introduce themselves; the number of years they have lived in Acton ranged from one (1) to sixty-one (61). They were then asked the following questions:

***1. What are your favorite things about Acton (and would like to make sure are preserved in the future)?***

Senior Center/COA  
Train Station  
Hospital  
NARA park  
Acton Public Health Nursing Service  
Library  
Arboretum  
Rural character  
Schools  
Discovery Museum  
Police & Fire  
Actonians  
Theater 3  
Variety of churches  
Close to highways  
Conservation lands  
Acton Women's Club  
History



***2. What are your least favorite things about Acton (that you would like to see changed)?***

40 B - lack of control  
Too many apartments (not rural character, strain on schools)  
Traffic  
High taxes  
No one center of town  
Not enough public transportation  
Insufficient parking at train station  
Meineke Muffler building  
Telephone poles in the street  
Access to the dump (difficult)  
Access to malls (need stop lights, e.g. 2A)  
Roche Brothers parking lot

***3. What has been lost from Acton (things that were here in the past that you wish could return)?***

Very rural, small population  
Town Fair (real)  
Used to go down 27 on her horse  
Family restaurant (not pizza)  
    Used to be a place called the “Actonian”  
    Used to be more gathering places  
Farms – more of both the rural “look” as well as working farms  
Peace and quiet  
Elm Trees in Acton Center and Main Street (came down during the hurricane)  
Dairy Whip Ice Cream  
Drive-in movie  
Christmas Carole singing at Town Hall  
Unpolluted brooks and streams  
Movie theater  
Local newspaper (focused solely on Acton news)



***4. Do you feel that Acton adequately meets the needs of its senior residents and what could the Town do better? (health care, fitness/wellness programs, transportation, housing, home delivered meals, emergency care, information regarding available services)***

Handicap parking in West Acton (5)

Town Meeting & Election Day (for local, state & national) should be held on Saturday all day (preferably with a nice lunch break) – (10)

- Nine of the participants in this discussion now attend Town Meeting, the rest said they would if it were held during the day.

Reduce taxes for seniors (abatements are not adequate; they are difficult to qualify for) – (36)

Need more public transportation (the senior van is limited in terms of when & where it goes) - (8)

No public transportation to Logan

- Used to be a bus from Greenfield
- Used to be a helicopter to Logan

Fitness programs are oversubscribed

***5. As a member of the Acton senior community, what do you consider to be your most important aging concern?***

Loss of independence

Aging in place/in your home and to be able to afford the taxes

Tax break for seniors

Cost of prescription drugs

***6. If you could do one thing to make Acton a better place to live, what would that be?***

Lower taxes

Get rid of eyesores, e.g. Muffler Building

Renovate Exchange Building

More parking at train station

Through zoning control mega-mansions

Get rid of Concord Rotary

Complete system of sidewalks so seniors can walk

Maintain existing sidewalks

Dollars to purchase open space (CPC funds) should be used for this purpose

No need to provide sidewalk from NARA to the post office