

DRAFT NOTES
 Littleton Economic Development Vision Discussion/Forum
 May 21, 2008

I. NOTES ON THEMES/POLICIES

Policies/themes are as numbered on PowerPoint presentation. Additions from participants in italics.

Theme/Policy	Votes Rec'd	Comments from Participants/Notes
1. To seek economic development that is compatible with Littleton's community character by maximizing positive impacts, minimizing negative impacts, and maximizing the use of existing infrastructure. <i>Develop partnerships with business, others.</i>	2	
2. To encourage the continuation of agriculture and farming-related businesses, <i>and preservation of agricultural lands</i>	22	
3. To designate and improve specific areas for business activity and prevent stretching of business development into other areas of town	3	Confusion about this theme and the next one—they seem “contradictory”. Also, this policy was confusing itself—not consistent-- seeming to encourage additional business activity “designate”, while saying it should not be “stretched”
4. Develop <i>additional</i> neighborhood retail and support services business zones	Removed from policies	See comment above; Participants amended this to mean additional areas, but because of disagreement as to meaning, policy dropped from voting.
5. Change the Industrial A zone into an Office, Research and Development district for high value office and research uses	1	Some high value manufacturing facilities are more valuable per square foot than offices.
6. Establish design review for all commercial uses	10	Architectural Review Guidelines – process. This could add another layer of review for all developments, and make the community less competitive.

Theme/Policy	Votes Rec'd	Comments from Participants/Notes
7. To strengthen and enhance the town Center of Littleton, so that it may serve the needs of the <i>employees and</i> residents for local shopping, civic and community functions, and encourage small business uses	23	Employees, and people “passing through” Town on Route 495—try and attract these people. Also, the Center needs a community focal point: a place where people could gather and have coffee, a “sit-down” coffee shop
8. Develop village district zoning, including design guidelines, <i>including mixed residential and business uses</i>	23	Include concept of mixed use—both “horizontally and vertically”
9. Develop village district zoning for the Depot area, <i>including mixed residential and business uses</i>	7	
10. To locate shopping with good access to Route 119	1	Discussion on what this theme meant: locate additional shopping, or provide good access/egress for existing shops. This policy refers to “access”. See next theme.

Additional Themes/Policies Discussed

Theme/Policy	Votes Rec'd	Comments from Participants/Notes
Consider additional Business uses on Route 119; include design guidelines	0	
Town should provide proactive management of development	0	Sense was that Town should not be “responding” to development, but should more actively guide what it wants
Improve access to public transportation, including to/from train station	16	Location of the existing station was controversial, many townspeople did not know about the process, could not have input. This station was supposed to be “temporary”. However, now businesses near the station want it to remain. One participant spoke of development site/scarcity of parking; Potential issue: insufficient parking.
Relocate station near old depot, and promote a variety of retail uses there	1	Concord (West Concord) is an example. One participant:”I drive to West Concord, pay to park there, get a muffin, do dry-cleaning there. Why can’t we have that in Littleton?”
IBM discussions regarding the Train should include the Town	2	IBM has met with State (Secretary Dan O’Connell) and T, but the Town was not invited.

Theme/Policy	Votes Rec'd	Comments from Participants/Notes
Connect with neighboring towns around economic development issues	1	
Create and preserve a vital Common area; foster economic development to generate additional revenues	4	
Couple open space preservation as economic development occurs	17	Very important not to let economic development (expansion) occur without some targeted open space preservation. ALSO, the idea of requiring certain amount of open space for each new development, particularly to preserve features, provide trails
Re-zoning of Flagg's site	1	Brought up by PB Member Mark M.
Cisco Site use: What do people want?	6	Also by Mark M. Proposals are coming in (for Cisco, a lifestyle center). How is the Town going to respond?