

Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: July 1, 2016

TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren

FROM: Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Development



RE: Friday Report

CC: City Council

Maureen Lemieux, Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer

Dori Zaleznik, Chief Administrative Officer

Our Department's weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 7/4/16	Independence Day – City Hall Closed
Tuesday 7/5/16	
Wednesday 7/6/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 211
Thursday 7/7/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 204• The Farm Commission, cancelled• Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 205

- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee will meet on **Wednesday, July 6th** at 8:00 a.m. in Room 211 to have a discussion with Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Development Director, about Newton's Housing Strategy. **Contact Malcolm Lucas** at 617.796.1149 or mlucas@newtonma.gov.
- **Conservation Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, July 7th**, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204. The following locations will be discussed for wetland permit issues: **94 Selwyn Road, 170-180 Sumner Street, 27 & 55 Boylston Street, and 36 Parsons Street**. Conservation area discussion will address: Bicycles on Conservation land and Norumbega Slope Restoration. **Issues around the City** to be discussed include: Wisteria at Crystal Lake. **Administrative matters** will include review of meeting minutes, and the "Minor Exempt Projects" guidance. A detailed agenda can be found at www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/conserv/age/2015_agendas_n_minutes.asp. **Contact Jennifer Steel** at 617.796.1134 or jsteel@newtonma.gov.
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The commission will be meeting on **Thursday, July 7th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be heard: **56 Central Avenue**, request to install two parking spaces, and **75 Lowell Avenue**, to repair and replace slate roof. **Contact Barbara Kurze** at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.
- **Newton Leads 2040: A Blueprint to Promote Affordable, Diverse Housing and Economic Growth:** On Thursday, June 23rd the Newton Housing Strategy Report was released and marks the beginning of a housing conversation series and community engagement with members of the Newton community. The webpage www.newtonma.gov/housingstrategy has a link to a "factbook" about the housing strategy, which the Planning Department team developed to make this information accessible for a wide audience. Comments or questions are welcome and can be sent to housingstrategy@newtonma.gov.

- **New Parking Payment Application – Passport:** The City of Newton is launching a new parking app called Passport that will allow an alternative payment method for parking meters throughout the City. Watch for new decals on meter stands indicating you will now have the option to pay by phone using an app called Passport. **For more information, go to www.newtonma.gov/parking.**
- **Newton-in-Motion Draft Strategies Survey Open until July 15th:** At past workshops, the City collected input on goals, visions, ideas, and tools to improve transportation in Newton. Now, the Newton-in-Motion project team will present draft strategies that Newton could employ to achieve these goals. We want your help to select and prioritize these strategies. Please visit our website at www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy.
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The CPC's next meeting on **Wednesday, July 13th** (7:00 p.m., City Hall Room 204) will have an **all-housing focus**. All CPC meetings are public, and the public is welcome. However, this meeting does not include any public hearings or funding votes, so time will not be set aside formally for public comments. The CPC will be discussing with Planning & Development staff the City of Newton's newly released **housing strategy** (www.newtonma.gov/housingstrategy) and in the context of that strategy, 3 **housing projects** that have received or are expected to request CPA funds (all project managers and sponsors also invited): [Homebuyer Assistance](#), [Crescent Street](#) (Auburndale) and [Jackson Road Senior Housing](#) (Newton Corner). For links to housing strategy documents, the full meeting agenda and pre-meeting packet, see www.newtonma.gov/cpa. For assistance, contact Program Manager Alice Ingerson at 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.
- **Online Access to Building Permit Information:** Want to view the building permit plans, application, and other documents associated with a building permit? Check out www.newtonma.gov/permits. You can now view the attachments for a permit under the “documents” link from your computer. The Inspectional Services Department has been scanning applications electronically since July 2015. Building permit plans have been electronic since July 2010. The department also has an ongoing project to scan all items in the property files allowing them to be accessed online. **Contact the Inspectional Services Department** at 617.796.1060.
- **The Farm Commission:** The Commission’s July and August meetings have been **cancelled**. The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on September 1st. **Contact Alexandra Ananth** at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.