


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: December 23, 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 12/26/16	Christmas Day Observance – City Hall Closed
Tuesday 12/27/16	
Wednesday 12/28/16	
Thursday 12/29/16	

- **Department Website Updates:** The Planning and Development Department will be making some changes to our website soon in order to make it easier to navigate. The first round of changes will focus on the navigation bar on the left hand side. More information will be shared in this report as we move forward.
- **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.**
- **Parking Payment Application – Passport:** This year the City of Newton launched a new parking app called Passport that allows 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.

Links to Ongoing Projects:

- **West Newton Square Enhancement Projects:** This project is embarking on a plan to design and construct roadway, sidewalk and streetscape improvements in the heart of historic West Newton Square. Construction is slated to begin in 2017. For more information visit our website at www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq.
- **Zoning Redesign:** The City Council's Zoning Reform project began in 2011, a Zoning Reform Group was tasked by the Mayor and Board of Alderman to develop a plan for reforming Newton's zoning ordinance. Phase One of the zoning reform project was completed in 2014, which

successfully reorganized the existing ordinance making it easier to understand, but it did not alter the content of the ordinance.

The Planning Department is currently working with City Council and Newton's community on Phase Two, Zoning Redesign. Go to our interactive website www.courbanize.com/newtonzoning to share information and gather your input for the Newton Zoning Redesign Project. We need your help as a community member to help inform this project. It's quick and easy: go to the project page, create a coUrbanize account, then click "Add Your Idea" to drop a pin and leave a comment on our map of Newton. Check that site for up to date project information.



Wishing everyone Happy Holidays from the Planning & Development Department.