


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: February 3, 2017
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 2/6/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newton Historical Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205• Planning and Development Board, 7:30 p.m., Room 204• City Council, 7:45 p.m., Council Chamber, Room 207
Tuesday 2/7/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Use Committee, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber, Room 207
Wednesday 2/8/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walnut Street Enhancements Project – Site Walk, 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m., meet at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street
Thursday 2/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WestMetro Home Consortium, 9:00 a.m., Room 211• Community Preservation Committee, 7:00 p.m., Room 204• Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205

- **Newton Historical Commission:** On **Monday, February 6th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205 for the second of two meetings in the January review cycle to hear requests for waivers of the demolition delay. The following waiver requests will be heard: **59 Grove Hill Park, 66 Alexander Road, 46 Collins Road, 138 Arnold Road (waiver amendment)**. The Local Landmark property at **391 Dedham Street** will be heard for design review. A Local Landmark district at **65-71 Walnut Park** will also be reviewed for a proposed new gymnasium. A detailed agenda can be found at: www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/histpres/agenin/histage/2016_agenda_n_minutes.asp **Contact Katy Hax Holmes** at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.
- **Planning and Development Board:** On **Monday, February 6th** the Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204. The following items are on the agenda: CDBG Substantial Amendment for Newtonville Neighborhood Improvement Project; Downpayment Assistance Program for Deed-Restricted Homeownership Units. **Contact Rachel Powers** at 617.796.1125 or rpowers@newtonma.gov.
- **Accessory Apartments:** On **Monday, February 6th** the City Council will meet in the Chamber at 7:45 p.m.. The proposed changes to the Accessory Apartment Ordinance are up for a vote and would replace our current ordinance allowing accessory apartments by-right in all Single and Two Family homes in the City, assuming that certain conditions are met. For more information visit our website at www.newtonma.gov/accessoryapartments.
- **Land Use Committee:** On **Tuesday, February 7th** the Committee will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber (Room 207) to hear petitions **#179-16 and #180-16** for a Special Permit/Site Plan Approval and to rezone the site from Business 1 and 2 to Mixed Use 4 to construct a mixed use, transit oriented development consisting of three interconnected buildings with building heights of sixty feet and five stories, incorporating 171 residential units, approximately 39,745 sq. ft. of commercial space, approximately 2,030 sq. ft., of office/community space and 346 on-site parking stalls at **241-261 Walnut Street, 845-875 Washington Street, 0-22 Bailey Place, 6-22 Washington Terrace**. **For a detailed agenda please visit the City Council website at** www.newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/committees/landuse/2017.asp. **Contact Alexandra Ananth** at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.

- Walnut Street Enhancements Project – Site Walk:** The City of Newton is embarking on a project to plan, design, and construct roadway, sidewalk and streetscape improvements for Walnut Street in the heart of Newtonville from Newtonville Avenue to Elm Road for construction starting in 2018. On **Wednesday February 8th** meet at **Newton Senior Center**, 345 Walnut Street, at 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. for a one-hour site walk to discuss how to enhance the safety, character, and functionality of Walnut Street for all users. Project includes hardscape elements: the street, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting. (Snow date will be February 16th). For more information visit us on our website at www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet.
- WestMetro Home Consortium:** On **Thursday, February 9th** the Consortium will meet at 9:00 a.m. in Room 211. The agenda includes review and discussion of current HOME budget and potential revisions to admin and CHDO reserve funding categories (vote anticipated), status of Competitive Funding Pool including any requests for funding (vote anticipated), update on Annual Action Plan and discussion of various regulatory and programmatic issues. **Contact Liz Valenta** at 617.796.1145 or evalenta@newtonma.gov.
- Community Preservation Committee:** On **Thursday, February 9th** the Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Room 204. The main agenda item is a working discussion of the potential future CPA proposals listed in the [Community Preservation Plan](#), especially those drawn from the City of Newton's [Capital Improvement Plan](#). This informal, informational discussion involves no funding votes or other formal decisions. For additional information visit the program website at www.newtonma.gov/cpa. **Contact Alice Ingerson** at aingerson@newtonma.gov or 617.796.1144.
- Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission:** On **Thursday, February 9th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **1268 Boylston Street, Unit A**, to request approval for vinyl fence in violation; **23 High Street**, to install new porch and windows on side ell, to install new windows, clapboard and architectural details on the barn, and to install a new roof cricket between the side ell and barn; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze** at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.
- FY18 Annual Action Plan:** The Housing and Community Development Division has released the FY18 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for inclusion in the July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018 Annual Action Plan.
 The following is anticipated to be available for each program area:
 - **CDBG-Human Service: \$275,000**
 - **CDBG- Architectural Access (5% minimum allocation)/Neighborhood/Public Facility Improvements : \$174,250.00**
 - **ESG- Street Outreach/Emergency Shelter Services/Homelessness Prevention/Rapid Rehousing: \$147,270**
 Applications were made available on January 25, 2017 and are **due to the Housing and Community Development Division no later than 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 22, 2017**. Additional information about the grants and application forms can be found on the City website at <http://www.newtonma.gov/CDBG>. Please contact **Rachel Powers** at 617-796-1125 or rpowers@newtonma.gov with any questions.
- 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.