


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: April 14, 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 4/17/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patriots Day – City Hall Closed
Tuesday 4/18/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Budget Presentation to City Council, 7:45 p.m., Council Chamber (207)
Wednesday 4/19/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CD Week – 10:00 a.m., Ribbon Cutting at Dare Family Services, 249 Mt. Vernon St.• Urban Design Commission, 7:00 p.m., City Hall –Planning Conference Room (B10)
Thursday 4/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 205

- **New Affordable Housing Opportunities:** SEB LLC is accepting applications for nine affordable condominium units on Court Street in Newtonville. The project includes two 1-Bedroom affordable units, six 2-Bedroom affordable units and one 3-Bedroom affordable unit. These units will be awarded through a lottery. **Please note**, the lottery is being handled by the lottery agent, SEB LLC and not the City of Newton. **Applications for the lottery must be received by May 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** to be eligible [Click Here!](#)
- **Community Development Week Event:** Please join us as we commemorate National Community Development Week on **April 19th at 10:00 a.m.** for a ribbon cutting at Dare Family Services, 249 Mt. Vernon Street in Newton. The event celebrates the completion of a major rehabilitation project at the Dare Family Services residential facility, improving the quality of life for developmentally disabled adults in West Newton. The project was made possible by the Community Development Block Grant and has resulted in safer living conditions and improved accessibility for the residents. **Please contact Rachel Powers, Community Development Programs Manager at rpowers@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1125 to RSVP or for any questions.** Also visit <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/hcd/default.asp> for details.
- **FY18 Draft Annual Action Plan:** To view the proposed FY18 Annual Action Plan visit our website www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/resources/special_reports_n_studies.asp. The deadline for submitting comments on the draft report is May 2, 2017. **Contact Rachel Powers at 617.796.1125 or rpowers@newtonma.gov for questions or comments.**
- **Urban Design Commission:** On **Wednesday, April 19th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room (B10). The following items are on the agenda: **628 Commonwealth Avenue** – Meridian Care; **308 Walnut Street** – Your German Kitchen; **118 Needham Street** – Grande Kitchen + Bar; **575 Boylston Street** – Joseph A Russo, MD; **150 Wells Avenue** – Mettler-Toledo Rainin, LLC & Pipette Calibration; **131-181 Needham Street** – Newton Nexus; **95 Wells Avenue** – Parking Wells Park; **199 Wells Avenue** - Wells Park; **15 Cypress Street** – ARCO; **15 Cypress Street** – Dream Casa; **431 Washington Street** - Sunrise of Newton. **Contact Shubee Sikka at 617.796.1139 or ssikka@newtonma.gov.**
- **Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission:** On **Thursday, April 20th** the Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **28 Chestnut Hill Terrace**, to expand driveway area and to amend previously approved application to install stone walls, stairs and walkway; **34 Beacon Street**, to install condensers, light fixtures, utility meters and vents; change side door and window location; change grille patten for rear windows; and review color palette; **393 Hammond Street**, to replace entry with windows, build

new entry at the rear and replace second story storm windows; **96 Suffolk Road**, to build a two-story and a one-story addition. Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze** at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.

- **Walnut Street Enhancements Project:** 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 for construction starting in 2018. Come to **Public Meeting #2 on Monday May 1st from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** in the main lobby of **Newton North High School**, 457 Walnut Street. View the layout options, discuss the advantages of the options, and provide your feedback. Go to www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet for more information including the presentation from Public Meeting #1.
- **Newton Leads 2040: A Transportation Strategy for Newton Launch:** Thank you to everyone who made the Official Launch of the Transportation Strategy on April 6, 2017 a success! We especially want to thank the organizations and companies who participated in the lightning round: Bridj, Electra Vehicles, Hubway, IPS, Newton Innovation Center, Park & Pedal, SPOT, StreetScan, Superpedestrian, Walk Boston, and Zip Car. Thank you to everyone from the Newton community who engaged in the Newton-in-Motion process. Go to www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy to read the full strategy.
- **New Accessory Apartments Ordinance Passed by City Council:** On April 3, 2017 Newton City Council voted in favor (22-2) for the proposed accessory apartments ordinance #343-16. This new ordinance means all internal accessory apartments that meet dimensional requirements in single- and two- family homes will now be allowed by-right, meaning property owners do not need to seek a special permit from City Council. This is the first completed priority action identified in Newton's Housing Strategy. The changes are anticipated to take effect on April 24th, 2017. Materials will be published later this month explaining what types of homes meet the new requirements and the process to create a new accessory apartment or legalize an existing one. Learn more online at www.newtonma.gov/accessoryapartments.
- A new High Interests Project page on the city's website has been created for resources and FAQs directly related to local historic districts. To visit the link please go to www.newtonma.gov/localhistoricdistricts. The page will be continuously updated to reflect upcoming meetings, provided documents, and resources.
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- **Housing Strategy update:** In June 2016 the City of Newton released the *Newton Leads 2040 Housing Strategy*, which identified ten priority actions for creating affordable and diverse housing options in Newton. Go online to see a recent update on the progress made on each of these priorities. <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/81483>. Stay up to date on the progress of the Housing Strategy by visiting www.newtonma.gov/housingstrategy.
- **Zoning Redesign Updates:** You may see signs around Newton asking you questions about the City. The campaign is part of the City Council's Zoning Redesign project, which kicked off in October last year. To participate, just pick up your cell phone and text in your idea. The goal of this texting campaign is to reach new people in Newton and invite participation in the Zoning Redesign project. This effort responds to requests from members of the public to employ new engagement methods. For those who are less likely to participate at a public meeting, this is a new way to share ideas about zoning quickly, easily, and on-the-go. For more information on Zoning Redesign and to see answers already submitted, visit <http://courbanize.com/newtonzoning>.
- **Community Preservation Committee new May meeting date:** The next CPC meeting has been moved from May 11th to **Wednesday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m.** in **City Hall Room 204**. Requests for time on this agenda and written materials for the pre-meeting packet are due on **Monday, May 15th**. This agenda will include a **public hearing** and potential CPC funding vote on an off-cycle full proposal for affordable housing and historic preservation on **Auburn Street** [Auburndale], sponsored by CAN-DO, Metro West Collaborative Development, and the Barry L. Price Center for Rehabilitation. The full text of that full proposal will be available by May 1st on the program website, www.newtonma.gov/cpa. For assistance, **contact Alice Ingerson**, Program Manager, at aingerson@newtonma.gov or 617.796.1144.