


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: May 19, 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 5/22/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning and Planning Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 205• Community Preservation Committee agenda requests and pre-meeting materials for June 8th meeting due (contact aingerson@newtonma.gov)
Tuesday 5/23/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Use Committee, 7:00 p.m., Room 211
Wednesday 5/24/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Site Plan Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lasell College – Grellier Field
Thursday 5/25/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 204• Newton Historical Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205• <i>West Newton Square Enhancements Meeting Rescheduled – Date TBD</i>

- **Zoning and Planning Committee:** The Committee will meet on **Monday, May 22nd** at 7:45 p.m. in Room 205 on the following petitions: **#116-17**, Submission of the Annual Action Plan HUD; **#360-16(2)**, Zoning amendment to rezone 160R Stanton Avenue from Public Use to Multi Residence 3 to prepare the site for multi-family affordable housing development; **#80-13**, Updates on the Zoning Redesign project; **#89-17**, Jointly with the Finance Committee, request to transfer of \$125,000 from the Planning Department's salary account to create a Citywide Economic Development Strategy. **Contact James Freas** at 617.796.1137 or jfreas@newtonma.gov.
- **Land Use Committee and Planning & Development Board:** On **Tuesday, May 23rd** the Committee and Board will meet jointly at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber (Room 207) to hear the following petitions: **#60-17 and #61-17**, Special Permit/Site Plan Review and to rezone the site from Multi-Residence 2 to Business 2 to construct an elderly housing facility in excess of 20,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area, consisting of 85 living units in a four-story structure not to exceed 48' in height and Floor Area Ratio not to exceed 2.0, extending the existing nonconforming front setback and constructing a retaining wall greater than 4' in a setback at **431 Washington Street, 29 Hovey Street**, and the adjacent unnumbered lot to the north on **Hovey Street**. The Committee will also consider a consistency ruling for Special Permit #214-10(2) to allow another story on the parking garage at **200 Boylston Street**. The Land Use Committee will also hear the following petitions: **#114-17**, Special Permit/Site Plan Approval to amend Special Permit #2-15 to allow a 1/3 reduction in the number of required parking stalls, allow dimensional waivers to the existing parking facility, and waivers regarding signage at **300 Boylston Street**; and **#63-17** Special Permit/Site Plan Approval to allow six dwelling units with shared underground parking at **16-26 Dalby Street**. **Contact Michael Gleba** at 617.796.1121 or mgleba@newtonma.gov.
- **Administrative Site Plan Meeting:** On **Wednesday, May 24th** at 6:30 p.m. the Planning Dept. Staff will hold an Administrative Site Plan meeting at Lasell College's Grellier Field to review the request to install field lighting. **Contact Neil Cronin** at 617.796.1141 or ncronin@newtonma.gov.
- **West Newton Square Enhancements:** The meeting scheduled for May 25th for the West Newton Enhancements Project will be **rescheduled to a date to be confirmed in the coming weeks**. Thank you for understanding and patience as we work to find a new date.

National Grid has given notice to the City of Newton that the **utility gas line improvement work on Washington St. in West Newton is anticipated to begin on Monday, May 22nd**. Below are some key pieces of information from National Grid and attached is more information about that work.

- Anticipated Start Date: On or about May 22, 2017 | Completion time: Approximately August 31, 2017

- Construction days and hours: 7:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m. Monday thru Saturday.

For more information on the project and National Grid's utility work, visit www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq or email WestNewtonSq@newtonma.gov

- **Conservation Commission:** On **Thursday, May 25th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204 the Commission will meet on the following matters to be discussed: Wetland permitting decisions: permit for revamping gasoline distribution system and cutting row of dying pine trees at **1 Nonantum Road.**, Newton Yacht Club; permit for Aquatic Plant and Algae Management in **Ware's Cove** by DCR; determine whether to sign onto MBTA permit for cutting trees on private and City land in wetland jurisdiction **just outside the MBTA Green Line right-of-way**; extension of permit for drainage work at **777 Dedham Street**, Mt Ida College; ratification of an Emergency Certification for stream clearing of **Sawmill Brook at Wayne Road**; Conservation Area decisions: Discussion with MBTA about cutting upland trees on Conservation properties (Houghton Garden and Webster Conservation Area); Administrative decisions: Approval of meeting minutes. Updates will be given on wetland matters, conservation areas, administrative matters, and issues around town. 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.
- **Newton Historical Commission:** On **Thursday, May 25th**, the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. The following full demo requests will be heard: **29 Bemuth Road, 400 Cherry Street, 174 Allen Avenue.** Partial Demolition request to be heard: **105 Morton Road.** Waiver request to be heard: **65 Chase Street, 19 Simpson Terrace/Dale Road, 16 Dalby Street, 138 Berkeley Street.** CLG Eligibility Reports have also been requested by city councilors at the following addresses: **142 Neshobe Road, 6 Woodchester Road.** A detailed agenda for the May 25th hearing can be found at: <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/82799>. **Contact Katy Hax Holmes** at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.
- **Walnut Street Enhancements:** The City of Newton is planning and designing roadway, sidewalk, and streetscape improvements for Walnut Street in the heart of Newtonville. Working with the community, the project intends to enhance the safety, character, and functionality of Walnut Street for all users. Project includes hardscape elements: the street, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting. Review different concept options at www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet. The variations within each concept option have different advantages. There are opportunities to 'mix and match' many of the elements shown. We want to hear from you – what elements do you like best and why? **Email walnutstreet@newtonma.gov by May 26, 2017.**
- **Local Historic Districts:** A draft Study Report for a proposed Local Historic District (LHD) in Newton Highlands was written by an ad hoc group of Newton Highlands residents and presented to the Zoning and Planning Committee and the Planning Board on May 8th, 2017. This public hearing remains open. The proposed historic district, the fifth LHD in the city if approved, was identified in order to preserve the architectural and historical core of Newton Highlands from demolition and to ensure that new development in the proposed district is in keeping with its architectural and historical integrity. Both the Newton Historical Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the draft report as meeting the requirements of the state enabling legislation known as Chapter 40C. **Contact Katy Hax Holmes** at kholmes@newtonma.gov with questions regarding the approval process in Newton.
- **Zoning Redesign Drop-In.** On **May 31st** from **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** staff will host **Zoning Redesign Drop-In Sessions.** Come by the Health & Human Services Conference Room at City Hall (Room 106C) to share your ideas with staff, and ask questions about the City's project to redesign the zoning ordinance. Everyone welcome. **Contact James Freas** at jfreas@newtonma.gov or for more information on Zoning Redesign visit <http://courbanize.com/newtonzoning>.
- **Crescent Street Housing and Reverend Fond Playground Expansion Updates:** The next public meeting on this project will be the Newton Design Review Committee (DRC) to be held on **Thursday, June 15th** at 6:30 p.m. at Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve Street, West Newton. **For more information please visit www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/hcd/crescent_street.asp.**
- **1294 Centre Street Redevelopment:** A video of the May 12th announcement is available on the website for the project. To view the video, get on our email list and keep track of the project, visit www.newtonma.gov/1294CentreStreet.