

Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: June 9, 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:

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| Sunday 6/11/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pop-Up Planning Department @ Newton Highlands Village Day, 10:30a-4:30p |
| Monday 6/12/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission on Disability, 6:30 p.m., Room 204• Zoning and Planning Committee, 7:45 p.m., Council Chamber (Room 207) |
| Tuesday 6/13/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Use Committee & P&D Board, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber (Room 207)• Auburndale Historic District Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205 |
| Wednesday 6/14/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• West Newton Square Enhancements Project, 6:30 p.m., First Unitarian Society Newton, 1326 Washington St., West Newton |
| Thursday 6/15/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crescent St. Housing and Reverend Ford Playground Project – Design Review Committee, 6:30 p.m., Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve St.• Conservation Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 204• Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 205 |

- **Pop-Up Planning Department at Newton Highlands Village Day:** On **Sunday, June 11th** the Planning Department will have their Pop-Up office set up at the Newton Highlands Village Day. Stop by to visit us from 10:30a-4:30pm.
- **Commission on Disability:** On **Monday, June 12th** the Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 204. The following items are on the agenda: Approval of meeting minutes, CDBG Report, Identify locations for FY18 CDBG funded access projects, Access issues at Newton Wellesley Hospital, Handicap Parking fines, Treasurer's Report, MAAB Variance –Adams & Clinton Curb Cut, ADA Coordinator's Report, Accessible (HP) parking space request, Ruderman Foundation. **Contact Jini Fairley** at 617.796.1253 or jfairley@newtonma.gov.
- **Zoning and Planning Committee:** On **Monday June 12th** the Zoning and Planning Committee will meet jointly with the Planning and Development Board at 7:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber. The following petitions will be heard: **#81-17**, requesting amendments to Sections 12-21 through 12-30 in order to update guidelines and procedures for the regulation of recombinant DNA technology; and requesting amendments to Section 12-24 and Chapter 30 to remove the requirement that laboratories or research facilities obtain a special permit from the City Council in order to utilize recombinant DNA research or technology; **#136-17**, Newton Historical Commission submitting a recommendation that the City of Newton Ordinances be amended to establish a local historic district in West Newton. **Contact James Freas** at 617.796.1137 or jfreas@newtonma.gov.
- **Local Historic Districts:** On **Monday, June 12th** the Zoning and Planning Committee and the Planning and Development Board will host a public hearing to discuss the recommendation from the Newton Historical Commission to establish a **West Newton Local Historic District**. A draft Study Report for a proposed Local Historic District (LHD) in West Newton was written by an ad hoc group of West Newton residents and will be presented at the public hearing. The proposed historic district was identified in order to preserve the architectural and historical core of West Newton 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 was introduced. The proposed Newton Highlands Local Historic District presented a draft Study Report to the Zoning and Planning Committee and the

Planning Board on May 8th. That public hearing remains open. **Contact Katy Hax Holmes at kholmes@newtonma.gov** with questions regarding the approval process in Newton.

- **Land Use Committee and Planning & Development Board:** On **Tuesday, June 13th** the Committee and Board will meet jointly at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber (Room 207) to hear the following petitions: **#132-17 and #133-17** Special Permit/Site Plan Review and to rezone five parcels (**156 Oak Street, 55 Tower Road, 275-281 Needham Street, 260 Needham Street, and 160 Charlemont Street**) from Mixed Use 1 to Business 4 and develop non accessory parking waiving 84 stalls as well as the requirements of parking facilities containing over five stalls at **156 Oak Street and 55 Tower Road**. The Committee will then meet solely to hear the following petition: **#132-17** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to amend Council Order #102-06(15) to locate the inclusionary housing units off site at **219 Commonwealth Avenue**. **Contact Neil Cronin at 617.796.1120 or ncronin@newtonma.gov.**
- **Auburndale Historic District Commission:** On **Tuesday, June 13th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. The following request will be considered: **119 Windermere Road**, to install a fence; **41 Hancock Street**, to replace the bulkhead and basement windows; **33 Hancock Street**, to renovate the house; replace windows, siding, gutters, rear roof, garage roof and rear patio; install a fence; expand the rear dormer and change the rear entry area; **74 Grove Street, Lasell College**, approval of front retaining wall and other changes to the front and rear site plan. Violation; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.**
- **West Newton Square Enhancements Project:** Public Meeting #4 - Detailed Design has been rescheduled for **Wednesday June 14th** from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Society Newton, **1326 Washington St.,** West Newton. Come learn more about the detailed design and anticipated construction. We hope to see you there. If you cannot make the meeting, the presentation will be online in the days afterwards and our team will be available for answering any questions, just email westnewtonsq@newtonma.gov and visit the website for more details: www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq
- **Conservation Commission:** On **Thursday, June 15th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204. The following matters will be discussed. Wetland permitting decisions regarding: grading associated with an addition at **79 Webster Park**, mitigation plantings at **55 Wayne Road**; adding a deck at **31 Harwich Road**; tree cutting on private and City land in wetland jurisdiction **just outside the MBTA Green Line right-of-way**; a parking area at **107 Charles Street**, unpermitted cutting at **Ware's Cove**; preliminary discussion about a vernal pool bylaw. Conservation Area decisions: none at this time. Administrative decisions: Approval of meeting minutes; discussion about the July 6, 2017 meeting. 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.**
- **Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission:** On **Thursday, June 15th** the Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **19 Reservoir Avenue**, to replace fence and add fence sections; **30 Chestnut Hill Road**, to repair roof slates, replace gutters and install snow guard; **119 Old Orchard Road**, to install a fence at the front of the property; **109 Old Orchard Road**, approval for installed curbing and to install cobblestone; **46 Chestnut Hill Road**, to build single-story rear addition with roof deck; change rear grading, existing railing, and garage doors and openings; remove chimney; and replace all existing windows and the roof; **41 Chestnut Hill Road**, to change windows at the front and side of house, to remove all shutters and to replace rear addition; **34 Beacon Street**, to revise window program and garage connector and to install lights on the front; **413 Hammond Street**, to pave the driveway and install a front parking space, front walkway and landing area. Continuation; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.**
- **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/CrescentSt.**

- **City Council's Zoning Redesign Drop-In: Wednesday June 21st** from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Newton City Hall Health Conference Room 106, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue. (Enter City Hall through main entrance and Room 106 is immediately on the right.) Drop-in or send your questions to jfreas@newtonma.gov
- **Walnut Street Enhancements Meeting:** A Streetscape improvement project for Walnut Street in Newtonville. Come discuss preferred concept elements and give your feedback **Thursday, June 22nd** at 6:30 p.m. at Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut St., Newtonville. RSVP www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet
- **Accessory Apartments Informational Session:** Do you want to learn more about accessory apartments? Are you eligible to create one? Do you qualify for financing to renovate an apartment and bring it up to code? Get advice. Learn about the new zoning changes. **Thursday, July 13th** from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 440, 295 California St., Newton. RSVP accessoryapartments@newtonma.gov
- **Boarding Houses:** The Newton City Council is exploring boarding houses, where 4 or more lodgers each has private living and sleeping space but share common cooking facilities. Please share your ideas on how we can best make safe. **Fill out our survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/boardinghouses> or contact rblatt@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1127.
- **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.