

Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: June 30, 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 7/3/17	
Tuesday 7/4/17	Independence Day – City Hall Closed
Wednesday 7/5/17	
Thursday 7/6/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MassChallenge Open House at NIC, 6:00-8:00 p.m., 124 Vernon Street• Conservation Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 204• Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 205

- **MassChallenge Open House:** The Newton Innovation Center (NIC), 124 Vernon Street, is hosting an open house for the 2017 MassChallenge finalists on **Thursday, July 6th** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Contact Kathryn Ellis at kellis@newtonma.gov to RSVP.
- **Conservation Commission:** will meet on **Thursday, July 6th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204. The following matters will be discussed. Wetland permitting decisions regarding: Routine maintenance on roadways, sidewalks, drainage pipes, stormwater drains, sewer, and water lines at **various locations throughout Newton**; Repair of foundation and walkway at **351 Parker Street**; Sewer service repairs and other site improvements at **300 Hammond Pond Parkway**; **Addition to a single family home at 42 Hyde Avenue**; Demolition and construction of a single family home at **5 Vaughn Avenue**; Demolition of existing garage and handicap ramp; construction of new handicap ramp at **515 Walnut St**; Demolition of single family home and construction of duplex at **73 Beaconwood Road**. Administrative decisions: Approval of 6/15/17 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.
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, July 6th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **182 Lowell Avenue**, approval for work done on side entries. Violation. Continuation; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.**
- **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**
- **Crescent Street Housing and Park Expansion:** To view the most recent presentation on concept design for the housing and park expansion (given June 15th), go to www.newtonma.gov/crescentst. Sign-up for updates.

- **1294 Centre Street:** Conceptual plans for the redevelopment of this property and an adjacent rear property are available at www.newtonma.gov/1294CentreStreet . Sign-up for updates.
- **Local Historic Districts:** The Zoning and Planning Committee and the Planning and Development Board hosted a public hearing on June 12th to discuss the recommendation from the Newton Historical Commission to establish a **West Newton Local Historic District**. This public hearing remains open. 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 was 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. The proposed **Newton Highlands Local Historic District** was presented to the Zoning and Planning Committee and the Planning Board on May 8th. That public hearing also remains open. **Contact Katy Hax Holmes** at kholmes@newtonma.gov with questions regarding the approval process in Newton.
- **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/83652>. Stay up to date on the progress of the Housing Strategy by visiting www.newtonma.gov/housingstrategy.
- **Walnut Street Enhancements Project:** Please visit our website at www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet to review materials from our meeting on June 22nd. Questions and comments are welcome at walnutstreet@newtonma.gov or 617.796.1140.
- **Community Preservation Committee:** ~~The CPC meeting previously scheduled for July 12th has been CANCELED.~~ **Monday, July 24, 2017** is the deadline to request time on and submit written materials for the CPC meeting on **Wednesday, August 9, 2017**. The August 9th agenda will include a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the Newton Housing Authority's **Jackson Road New Senior Housing (Haywood House)** project [Newton Corner], if the full proposal is received by the off-cycle deadline of July 7th. The program website, www.newtonma.gov/cpa, links to full text documents for all proposals from its **Proposals & Projects** page. For assistance, **contact Alice Ingerson**, Program Manager, at aingerson@newtonma.gov or 617.796.1144.
- **Zoning Redesign Drop-In Summer Sessions:** We are continueing our Zoning Redesign Drop-In sessions this summer. Drop-In on Wednesdays, July 19th, August 16th and August 30th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Come by City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 106 (1st floor main entrance) to share your ideas with staff and ask questions about the City's project redesign the zoning ordinance. Everyone is welcome! **Contact James Freas** at jfreas@newtonma.gov with questions. For more information on Zoning Redesign visit <http://courbanize.com/newtonzoning> or email zoningredesign@newtonma.gov.