

# Planning and Development Department Update

**DATE:** January 5, 2018

**TO:** Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

**FROM:** Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Development



**RE:** Friday Report

**CC:** City Council

Our Department's weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

<b>Monday 1/08/18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission on Disability, 6:30 p.m., Room 204</li> <li>Zoning and Planning Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 205</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 1/09/18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auburndale Historic District Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205</li> <li>Land Use Committee, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber (Room 207)</li> <li>Economic Development Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 204</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 1/10/18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 Austin Street Liaison Committee, 7:00 p.m., Room 205</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 1/11/18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Massachusetts Department of Transportation Needham Street Corridor Project Update, 6:00 p.m., Saco-Petee Building (156 Oak Street)</li> <li>Conservation Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 211</li> <li>Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205</li> <li>Newton Historical Commission, 7:00 p.m., Planning Conference Room ( Room B10)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 1/12/18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Massachusetts Department of Transportation Needham Street Corridor Project Update, 8:00 a.m., Saco-Petee Building (156 Oak Street)</li> </ul>

- **Commission on Disability:** On **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** the Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 204. The following items are on the agenda: Approval of December Meeting Minutes, CDBG Report, CDBG Funding Ideas, Handicap Fines Report, Operation Access Update, Treasurer's Report, ADA Coordinator's Report, Election of C.O.D. Officers, New Candidate for COD. **Contact Jini Fairley** at 617.796.1253 or [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov).
- **Zoning and Planning Committee:** On **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** the Committee will meet at 7:45 p.m. in Room 205. The following items are on the agenda: An Introduction to Zoning and Planning presentation and discussion; a review of agenda, schedule, and goals; Committee discussion on the Zoning Redesign project; and Committee discussion of the Needham Street Vision project. **Contact James Freas** at 617.796.1137 or [jfreas@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfreas@newtonma.gov)
- **Auburndale Historic District Commission:** On **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **75-77 Maple Street, Lasell College**, to replace approximately 20 windows; **140 Windermere Road**, feedback on proposal to demolish existing rear addition, left side porch and garage, and build new rear addition, left side porch and garage; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze** at 617.796.1129 or [bkurze@newtonma.gov](mailto:bkurze@newtonma.gov).
- **28 Austin Street:** The next Liaison Committee meeting is **Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. Pre-construction phase work will start in January 2018. Construction to begin in earnest in March. Go to [www.newtonma.gov/austinstreet](http://www.newtonma.gov/austinstreet) for more information and to sign up for occasional email updates.
- **Needham Street Corridor Project:** **Massachusetts Department of Transportation** is hosting public meetings at the Saco-Petee Building, **156 Oak Street**, Newton on **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) and **Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 a.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.). This project proposes roadway reconstruction and transportation safety improvements including new pavement, sidewalks, traffic signals, crosswalks, bicycle lanes and stormwater management. City staff will also provide an update about the Oak

& Christina Intersection project. Email [needhamstreet@newtonma.gov](mailto:needhamstreet@newtonma.gov) to sign up for occasional project updates.

- **Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission:** On **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **65 Oak Street**, to install a dormer; **254-256 Elliot Street**, approval for installed front railing system; **75 High Street**, to amend the previously approved design to enclose the right side porch and extend the open porch area, extend both side dormers, change side window locations, and add an entry on the left side; **1282-1284 Boylston Street**, feedback on proposed project to replace the roof, repair siding and trim, and add a two-story addition on the rear and a dormer on the rear of the main roof; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze** at 617.796.1129 or [bkurze@newtonma.gov](mailto:bkurze@newtonma.gov).
- **Economic Development Commission:** On **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** the Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204. Agenda items include: Updates from the Economic Development Director, the Economic Development Commission Chair updates, Discussion with Rachel Selsky from Camoin Associates, Approval of meeting minutes for December, Potential Candidates for the EDC, Nominations for EDC, EDC Annual Report and agenda items for future meetings. **Contact Kathryn Ellis** at 617.796.1122 or [kellis@newtonma.gov](mailto:kellis@newtonma.gov).
- **Land Use Committee:** On **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** the Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber (Room 207) to hear the following petitions: **#18-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to allow an oversized dormer at **165 Harvard Street**; **#19-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to extend the nonconforming two-family use at **307-309 Lexington Street**; **#20-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to allow extend the nonconforming commercial use, extend the nonconforming front, sides, and rear setbacks, and exceed the floor area ratio at **203 Elliot Street**; **#21-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to exceed the floor area ratio at **43 Fisher Avenue**; and **#22-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to establish a home office in a detached accessory structure and allow an oversized dormer at **9 Crofton Road**. **Contact Neil Cronin** at 617.796.1141 or [ncronin@newtonma.gov](mailto:ncronin@newtonma.gov).
- **Conservation Commission:** On **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 211. The following matters will be discussed. Wetland decisions regarding: demolition of single family home and construction of duplex at **738 Watertown St**; construction of an addition at **14 Phillips Lane**; emergency culvert repair and dredging of detention pond at **77 Florence Street**; and construction of a 6-lot subdivision at **56 Farwell Street**. Administrative decisions: Approval of 12/21/17 meeting minutes. Updates will be given on wetland matters, conservation areas, administrative matters, and issues around town. A detailed agenda can be found at [2018 Agendas & Minutes](#). **Contact Jennifer Steel** at 617.796.1134 or [jsteel@newtonma.gov](mailto:jsteel@newtonma.gov).
- **Newton Historical Commission:** On **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room B10 (Planning Conference Room) for the second of two December-cycle hearings. The following requests for waivers will be heard: **336 Newtonville Avenue**, **51 Glen Avenue**, **189-193 Adams Street**, **34 Park Street**, **133 Park Street, NR**. A detailed agenda for the January 11th hearing can be found at: <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/86730>. **Contact Katy Hax Holmes** at 617.796.1143 or [kholmes@newtonma.gov](mailto:kholmes@newtonma.gov).
- **Zoning Redesign:** Join the next event in our series, "A Parking Lot for Goldilocks: Zoning for Just the Right Size", on **Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street. Check out the entire nine-part Zoning Redesign series online and **RSVP** at [www.courbanize.com/newtonzoning](http://www.courbanize.com/newtonzoning). Have more questions or ideas? **Contact us** at [zoningredesign@newtonma.gov](mailto:zoningredesign@newtonma.gov) or 617.796.1120 with questions.
- **Crescent Street Housing and Reverend Ford Playground Expansion Project:** The project is scheduled both for the City Council's Public Facilities Committee on **Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204 and the Community Preservation Committee on **Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 204. To view the most recent concept design for the housing project and to sign up to receive project updates, go to [www.newtonma.gov/crescentst](http://www.newtonma.gov/crescentst). **Contact Amanda Berman** at 617.796.1147 or [aberman@newtonma.gov](mailto:aberman@newtonma.gov).
- **Needham Street Area Vision Plan:** Community Engagement Group is meeting on **Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** and **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Barry Price Center, 27 Christina Street from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and there will be a portion of the agenda available for public comment. To

review materials, sign up for email updates, and to stay up-to-date on the Needham Street Area Vision Plan, visit [www.newtonma.gov/needhamstreet](http://www.newtonma.gov/needhamstreet)

- **Community Preservation Committee:** The agenda for the CPC's next meeting on **Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** includes **PUBLIC HEARINGS** on the two off-cycle proposals below. Both proposals are available on the program website, [www.newtonma.gov/cpa](http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa), under [Proposals & Projects – Pending](#). Written comments on these proposals received by **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** will be forwarded to the CPC in their pre-meeting packet, but additional comments will of course also be accepted at the hearings themselves:
  - [Crescent Street](#) [Auburndale/West Newton] (affordable housing and community playground/park), \$2,575,000 in additional CPA funding for final design & construction
  - [Jackson Road/Haywood House new senior housing](#) [Newton Corner] (Newton Housing Authority), \$2,500,000 in CPA funding
- For assistance, **contact Alice Ingerson** at [aingerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:aingerson@newtonma.gov) or 617.796.1144
- **Highlights of Newton transportation improvements in 2017** are published online here <http://conta.cc/2p1CXdS>. Since launching [Newton-in-Motion: A Transportation Strategy for Newton](#) in April, we have made progress on several priority actions including beginning work on a **Street Design Guide** for Newton. Look for events in early 2018 or email [ssikka@newtonma.gov](mailto:ssikka@newtonma.gov) with any ideas, comments, or questions.
- **Newton-Needham Transportation Survey:** The Newton-Needham Regional Chamber is assisting the 128 Business Council on an initiative that aims to improve transportation directly benefiting Newton and Needham residents, businesses, employees and customers. As a first step, they are surveying commuters in the Newton and Needham area. **Take the survey! Win a \$40 Amazon gift card!** <https://128bc.org/surveys>
- **1294 Centre Street:** Conceptual plans for the redevelopment of this property and an adjacent rear property are available at [www.newtonma.gov/1294CentreStreet](http://www.newtonma.gov/1294CentreStreet). Sign-up for project [updates](#) online.
- **Village Enhancement Projects:** To review materials and stay up-to-date on the **West Newton Square Enhancements Project** and the **Walnut Street Enhancements Project**, visit the respective project websites at [www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq](http://www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq) and [www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet](http://www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet).