

Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: January 12, 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:

Monday 1/15/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday—City Hall Closed
Tuesday 1/16/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City Council, 7:45 p.m., Council Chamber
Wednesday 1/17/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Design Commission, 7:00 p.m., Planning Conference Room (B10)
Thursday 1/18/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning Redesign Event, "A Parking Lot for Goldilocks: Zoning for Just the Right Size", 6:30 p.m., Newton Free Library (330 Homer Street)• Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 205

- **Urban Design Commission:** On **Wednesday, January 17th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Planning Conference Room. The Commission will review the following items on their agenda: **2050 Commonwealth Avenue** – Bruegger's Bagels, **118 Needham Street** – Pureluxe, **87 Union Street** – Health Bar, **79 Union Street** – Woops! Bakeshop, and **Comprehensive Sign Package for Piccadilly Square**. Contact **Shubee Sikka** at 617.721.1139 or ssikka@newtonma.gov.
- **Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission:** On **Thursday, January 18th** the Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **32 Acacia Avenue** to replace 20 windows. Continuation; **60 Beacon Street** to widen driveway, replace curbing with cobblestone, and replace driveway stairs; **48 Reservoir Avenue** to build up main house, install dormer and modify rear additions; **85 Gate House Road** to replace windows and to add dormers to rear tower; **25 Essex Road** to build an attached two-car garage and a rear screened porch and deck; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. Contact **Barbara Kurze** at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.
- **Zoning Redesign:** On **Thursday, January 18th** join us at the next event in our series, "A Parking Lot for Goldilocks: Zoning for Just the Right Size" at 6:30 p.m. at the Newton Free Library – Druker Auditorium, 330 Homer Street. Check out the entire nine-part Zoning Redesign series online and **RSVP** at www.courbanize.com/newtonzoning. Also, **Drop-In Office Hours** will take place at City Hall in Room 106 on **Wednesday, January 24th** from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Have more questions or ideas? **Contact us** at zoningredesign@newtonma.gov or 617.796.1120
- **New Affordable Homeownership Opportunity:** The Planning & Development Department's Housing and Community Development Division is accepting applications to purchase an affordable condominium located at **280 Boylston St, #907, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467**. This unit has approximately 960 square feet, 1 bedroom, 1 full bath. **Applications must be received by January 19, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** to be considered for eligibility. Visit the project's website at www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/hcd/affhousing/default.asp or contact us at 617.796.1120.

- **Crescent Street Housing and Reverend Ford Playground Expansion Project:** The project is scheduled for the Community Preservation Committee on **Tuesday, January 23rd** 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. **Contact Amanda Berman** at 617.796.1147 or aberman@newtonma.gov.
- **28 Austin Street:** Pre-construction phase work will start in January 2018. Construction to begin in earnest in March. Go to www.newtonma.gov/austinstreet for more information and to sign up for occasional email updates.
- **Needham Street Corridor Project (MassDOT roadwork):** This project proposes roadway reconstruction and transportation safety improvements including new pavement, sidewalks, traffic signals, crosswalks, bicycle lanes and stormwater management. Email needhamstreet@newtonma.gov to sign up for occasional project updates.
- **Needham Street Area Vision Plan:** On **Monday, January 22nd and January 29th** the Community Engagement Group is meeting 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
- **Community Preservation Committee:** On **Tuesday, January 23rd** the Committee will hold **PUBLIC HEARINGS** on the two off-cycle proposals below, which are available on the program website, www.newtonma.gov/cpa, under [Proposals & Projects – Pending](#). The pre-meeting packet with the full agenda and additional background information is also on the website, under [Committees & Meetings – Current CPC Meetings](#).
 - [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 alingerson@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 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. 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 and www.newtonma.gov/walnutstreet.