

Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: March 2, 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 3/5/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning & Development Board, 7:30 p.m., Room 204
Tuesday 3/6/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Use Committee, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber (Room 207)
Wednesday 3/7/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 205
Thursday 3/8/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 205• UChan Series "Financing for Various Types of Housing", 7:00 p.m., Eliot Church - 474 Centre St

- **Planning & Development Board:** On **Monday, March 5th** the Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204. The following items are on the agenda: Approval of Substantial Amendment to the FY18 Annual Action Plan related to revisions to the Downpayment/Closing Cost Assistance Program. **Contact Rachel Powers at 617.796.1125 or rpowers@newtonma.gov.**
- **Land Use Committee:** On **Tuesday, March 6th** the Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber (Room 207) to hear the following petitions: **#90-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to amend **Board Order #45-10** to remove a condition requiring off-site parking at **70-80 Union Street and 93 Union Street**; **#91-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to amend **Board Orders #273-14(2) and #40-07** to allow for a driveway at **5-7 and 11-19 Elm Street**; **#92-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to amend **Council Order #131-16** to alter nonconforming front and rear setbacks at **37 Westbourne Road**; **#133-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to allow a restaurant with more than 50 seats, allow a freestanding sign, waivers to the sign regulations, parking in the setback, and waivers to the requirements of parking facilities containing more than five stalls at **2095 Commonwealth Avenue**; **#201-17** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to amend **Council Order #201-17** to restructure conditions pertaining to inclusionary zoning at **386-394 Watertown Street**; and **#135-18** Special Permit/Site Plan Review to amend **Council Order #190-12** to restructure conditions pertaining to inclusionary zoning at **429 Cherry Street**. **Contact Neil Cronin at 617.796.1141 or ncronin@newtonma.gov.**
- **Fair Housing Committee:** On **Wednesday, March 7th** the Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. in Room 205 to have a discussion about events, training and publications. There will also be a discussion about membership with this committee. Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Malcolm Lucas at 617.796.1149 or mlucas@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission:** On **Thursday, March 8th** the Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. The following requests will be considered: **300 Elliot Street**, working session for renovation of existing house and carriage house; **1238 Chestnut Street**, to repair, restore and upgrade the four buildings and site. Proposed changes include siding, roofs, windows, doors, lighting, signage, vestibules, entrances and accessibility ramps; **75 High Street**, 1) to change window locations; install entry doors, fireplace vent hoods, landing floors, stone veneer detailing and hardscaping; 2) to rebuild shed to match existing; and 3) to install fence and condenser units; **1272 Boylston Street, Barn/Garage**, to convert historic barn/garage into dwelling unit. Continuation; Administrative discussion to include approval of meeting minutes. **Contact Barbara Kurze at 617.796.1129 or bkurze@newtonma.gov.**
- **Uchan Series "Financing for Various Types of Housing":** On **Thursday, March 8th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Eliot Church (474 Centre Street), Uniting Citizens for Housing Affordability in Newton presents the second forum of a four part

housing education series. Come learn what are the real costs of affordable housing. Presentations from Nancy McCafferty of Massachusetts Housing Partnership; Bart Lloyd of Preservation of Affordable Housing, a developer of large projects (more than 100 units); and Dan Violi, a consultant to developers of smaller projects (less than 50 units).

- **Needham Street Area Vision Plan:** The next meeting of the Community Engagement Group is **Monday, March 12th** at 5:00 p.m. at 27 Christina Street. 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 or email needhamstreet@newtonma.gov.

- **Community Preservation Committee:** The main agenda item for the CPC's **March 13th** meeting (7:00 p.m., City Hall Room 211) will be a **public hearing** on [proposed revisions to the program's current funding guidelines](#). The revisions have been online since November 2017 from the program's home page, www.newtonma.gov/cpa, and from its [Guidelines & Forms](#) page. If you wish to comment on these guidelines but cannot attend the hearing, please **contact Alice Ingerson** at aingerson@newtonma.gov or **617.796.1144**.

Upcoming Deadlines: Proposal sponsors hoping to submit a full proposal for the regular annual funding round in **fall 2018** must submit requests by **March 29th** for the required initial meeting with staff, so they can submit eligible pre-proposals by **May 25th**.

- **Zoning Redesign:** On **Thursday, March 15th** join us at the next event in our series, "Building Shape, Size, and Form in Neighborhoods and Village Centers" 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. Have more questions or ideas? **Contact us** at zoningredesign@newtonma.gov or **617.796.1120**.
- **Sustainability + Preservation: Energy Efficiency for Old Houses:** Can you make your home more energy efficient while still respecting its historic character? Yes! Join Historic Newton on **Wednesday, March 21st** at 6:30pm at the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds (286 Waverley Ave) in a program that covers how to blend reducing your carbon footprint with comfort and preservation. The panel will include Stephanie Horowitz (ZeroEnergy Design), Paul Eldrenkamp (Byggmeister Design & Build), and Nick Falkoff (Auburndale Builders), with moderator Katy Hax Holmes, City of Newton's Preservation Planner. Free admission. For more info: **617.796.1450** or www.historicnewton.org
- **Crescent Street Housing and Reverend Ford Playground Expansion Project:** To view the most recent concept design for the housing and sign up to receive project updates, go to www.newtonma.gov/crescentst. **Contact Barney Heath** at **617.796.1131** or bheath@newtonma.gov.
- **160R Stanton Avenue Redevelopment Project:** In November 2017, JCHE was designated by the City of Newton to develop the water tower parcel to expand the Golda Meir House with additional affordable apartments and services for seniors, as well as 9-12 units of housing for the chronically homeless. To review materials and to stay up-to-date on this project, visit our website: [160R Stanton Ave](http://160RStantonAve). **Contact Barney Heath** at **617.796.1131** or bheath@newtonma.gov.
- **28 Austin Street:** Construction to begin in earnest in March. Go to www.newtonma.gov/austinstreet for more information and to sign up for occasional email updates.
- **Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance Update:** To review materials and stay up-to-date on this project, go to www.newtonma.gov/Inclusionary_Zoning **Contact James Freas** at **617.796.1137** or jfreas@newtonma.gov
- **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.
- **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.