

MINUTES OF THE NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

Pursuant to *An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations*, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, signed into law by Governor Baker on July 16, 2022, this will be an Online/Telephone Meeting

Participation Details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/714158912>

Meeting ID: 714 158 912

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Meeting ID: 714 158 912

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ani0ErE3g>

March 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Members In Attendance:

Jeff Riklin (Vice President, acting President)

Jay Werb (Treasurer)

Marie Jackson

Kathaleen Brearley (Secretary)

Patricia Connolly

Julie Irish

Matt Lai

Jack Neville

City Councilors in Attendance: Councilor Bill Humphrey

1) Approval of Minutes from February Meeting (5 minutes)

Jay W. motioned to approve the minutes and Patty C. seconded this motion. All members in the meeting voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the February meeting as submitted.

2) Treasurer's Report (5 minutes)

7 members in attendance unanimously voted to approve the request of the Treasurer to reimburse other area councilors for small gifts (no greater than \$500 in total) for A.Adyanthaya in gratitude for his ~11 years of service as President of NUFAC

3) Public Comment/Questions?

Marie J. reported that the City agreed to bring in equipment from Forestry Services to clean up the branches around the World War I memorial on PetteeSt@HighSt.

4) Village Center Zoning Proposal Feedback: Letter from NUFAC (20minutes)

The setbacks along the Upper Falls Greenway in Pettee Square were discussed at length with the goal that the setbacks for the parcels along the Pettee Square side of the Greenway should be the same as the setbacks approved for the Northland project.

5.) Elliot Street Safety Issues Updates (5 minutes)

Julie I. has not heard back yet from Jason Sobel via Councilor Downs

6.) La Nuestra Update & Pettee Square Redesign Updates (5 minutes)

Jack N, Jeff R and Jay W would like the Planning Dept to come back to NUFAC and report on the status of the Pettee Square redesign project.

There are pedestrian pathways in the Northland design from Pettee Square and Jay agreed as liaison to the Northland Project to follow up with Luis in the Planning Councilor Humphrey reported that there might be some additional private donations coming to help with the rebuilding of the Christina Street Bridge over the River from businesses in Needham. This is in addition to the State funding already confirmed.

7) NUFAC Transition Issues (15 minutes)

New Member?

No one reported any members of the community that have responded to the calls sent out for a 9th member of the Area Council.

8) General Upper Falls News (5 minutes)

Jeff R reported on the following:

300 Elliot St. , that the project is moving forward

13-19 Winter St- reported that much of the exterior part of the project is complete

Reassured the community that it is within size that was approved

14 Summer St- Add a second unit in the back, Historic Commission didn't see this as feasible and a scaled down proposal was approved.

Jay W. proposed that we try to meet in person in April and every other month following April. NUFAC will need to test out the hybrid meeting option.

8 approved of this motion and 1 abstained from voting to approve this measure.

Marie J. mentioned there was a walk known as the 'Upper Falls Loop' going through 2.5 miles of park space last Sunday; More than 35 people were in attendance.

Jay W. asked if we could consider meeting in person every other month.

9.) Adjourn

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253.