

# MINUTES of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

April 20, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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

One tap mobile +16468769923,714158912# US (New York) +16699006833,,714158912# US (San Jose)

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Meeting ID: 714 158 912  
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ani0ErE3g>

Members in Attendance:  
Kathaleen Brearley (Secretary)  
Julie Irish  
Jack Neville  
Jay Werb (Treasurer)

City Councilors in Attendance  
Bill Humphrey  
Other City officials in Attendance:  
Carol Stapleton, Parks and Recreation

**1) Approval of Minutes from March Meeting (5 minutes) 2) Treasurer's Report (5 minutes)**

Without a quorum, no discussion or vote was taken on the minutes from March.

**2) Public Comment/Questions?**

Community residents in attendance reported that Northland has been doing construction work in violation of the Early Start and Holiday working rules. As a member on the Northland Liaison Committee, Jay W. reported this immediately to Northland on the days that it was reported. The neighbor/resident reported this was happening at 7am on Patriot's Day and Martin Luther King Day. Jay W. will contact Northland about this again and follow up next month.

Members of the meeting who attended the Town of Needham meeting on Tuesday night discussing the Needham-Newton Community Way feasibility study to determine whether the Greenway extension plan will remain pedestrian and bicycle (BikePed) or whether it should be built and ready for Multimodal Transportation (@26') The bridges will need to be rebuilt at the same standard as the other parts of the Greenway. The State standard would be a Bridge connection from Oak St all the way to Webster St. The

good news was the bridge over the Charles River is structurally sound enough for a 16' wide path. To accommodate a 26' wide path, they will need to do more extensive work. Councilor Humphrey introduced details about Newton's Bicycle & Pedestrian plan in Newton:

[Bikepedplan@newtonma.gov](mailto:Bikepedplan@newtonma.gov)

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/transportation-planning/network-plan>

#### **4) Village Center Zoning: Updated Maps (version 2.0) from ZAP (15minutes)**

Members in attendance tabled any discussion until the updated 2.0 maps are published and when other NUFAC members returned to the meeting in May (2.0 Maps were released on Fri 4/21)

#### **5.) Elliot Street Safety Issues Updates (15 minutes)**

There was an updated Proposal shared with members from the Director of Transportation Operations via Councilor Humphrey (on 3.23.23)

The Transportation is Moving forward with plans in response to speed related crashes. The engineering consultant came up with 12 proposed combinations. One option in the proposal includes the construction of a new crosswalk on Elliot@Linden St with RRFB (flashing crosswalk). Councilor Humphrey confirmed this was the most likely option of those proposed.

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

Jay W. reported that regarding Northland, there is no funding for a path to the Splashpark. After consultation with Luis in Parks and Recreation, Luis confirmed they would need a 5% grade to cut into the ground. Money needs to be raised for this by the end of 2025.

**7. NUFAC (hybrid meeting option) (5minutes)** In absentia, Patty Connelly reported that she would volunteer to be the point person to communicate with Carol Stapleton in Park and Recreation to facilitate a return to Hybrid meetings for NUFAC. As part of the set up for this, Jeff R (Acting President) will need to sign off on some paperwork with Parks and Recreation.

**8) Transition Issues (15 minutes) New Member?** Thoughts on a 9<sup>th</sup> member? Julie recommended that members reach out to possible people to be appointed 9<sup>th</sup> member.

#### **9) General Upper Falls News (5 minutes) 10) Public Comment/Questions**

Jack N. reported that they are completing the lease approval for The Depot.

Councilor Humphrey reported that the Proposed Zoning Maps 2.0 will be released tomorrow 4.21.23.

Newton Serves Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> – people should sign up soon. There was a lengthier discussion about trash along Greenway and in the Nexus properties opposite of Stop n Shop and Avalon.

#### **11)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](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253.