2022-2023 City of Newton



Date: July 21, 2023 To: City Council

From: Councilor Deborah J. Crossley, Chair of Zoning & Planning Committee

Re: Zoning & Planning Committee process re VCOD

Dear Colleagues,

I look forward to our meeting on Monday when, after allowing up to 1.5 hours for public testimony, (and a couple other items) we will discuss a plan and process for moving through and refining the VCOD version 2 text and maps. As you will see from the Planning Memo, staff have divided the VCOD into substantive sections, to help organize our deliberations. We will begin these discussions July 31 and continue on August 14.

This is similar to how we went through the proposed framework in June of 2022.

By August 14 I hope we conclude these deliberations and as well go through the maps; there are a number of adjustments that have been proposed.

I propose that staff briefly present each section as outlined in their memo, and we discuss each section in turn. I suggest we take a straw vote on each section after some discussion, which should make clear any remaining issues. Of course any amendments are in order, but I think it would be helpful in many cases to be clear about where we are given all of the deliberation, input and testimony we have had to date. You are free to abstain of course, but please note what information you feel may be missing, or modifications you think are desirable so that we can address these in a most efficient manner.

There may be simple exceptions that will come up in our discussion where something specific is suggested and by general agreement we wish to incorporate a change. There may be cases where the straw votes should be divided. For example, it may be wise to vote separately on each of the two proposals from NHP regarding allowing an additional story or two in exchange for increased deeded affordable units.

If you intend to propose amendments, please prepare them in advance to submit to the committee for their consideration in the Friday packet ahead of July 31 meeting.

As well, Planning is eager to hear any questions you may have on any matter related to this over the next week.

The sense of the committee achieved by the end of our August meeting can be used to incorporate changes so that a version 3, highlighting any adjustments, can be presented to the public in September.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Crossley, Chair of Zoning & Planning Committee