

Minutes of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

May 18, 2023

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>

May 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Julie Irish
Jeff Riklin (President)
Jay Werb (Treasurer)
Jack Neville
Marie Jackson
Patricia Connolly
Kathaleen Brearley (Secretary)
Other City officials in attendance: Carol Stapleton (Parks and Recreation)

1) Approval of Minutes from March and April Meetings (5 minutes)

Julie I. motioned to approve the March meeting minutes. Jay W. seconded this motion. All five members of NUFAC in attendance voted to approve the minutes as submitted.

2) Treasurer's Report (5 minutes)

The Treasurer reported that there were no significant changes in the balance, and that the account has a comfortable balance.

3) Public Comment/Questions?

After a question about air quality and noise as a result of any construction work in the neighborhood, Jeff R. suggested that residents should contact city Inspectional Services if residents witness what they believe to be any violations.

4) Village Center Zoning: Update on NUFAC Letter to ZAP (10 minutes)

Jay W. reported that most of the changes in the 2.0 version of the Zoning proposal will not impact Upper Falls, but he asked if Councilor Crossley would be willing to come to our meeting in June to discuss how the revised proposal addresses the points in the

letter recently submitted to ZAP from NUFAC (ltr dated 3/20/23)

5) Parks and Recreation Budget for FY24 (5 minutes)

Jay W reported that we should expect work on the path connecting the park on the Northland property to the Upper Falls Greenway starting Mid-2025 to early 2026. Jay verified with Luis (Parks &Rec) that there are two sources for raising money for this path.

In addition, there is also a Northland Transportation Fund (\$5 million)

Jay asked how we can develop a list of suggestions for the allocation of these funds from the community rather than to wait for Northland and the City to decide how to use it. Julie suggested we keep this on the radar every month and compile the ideas in a letter.

Jeff R. asked that everyone come to the June meeting with specific ideas about how to use the 2.5 million portion that will be available at the end of this year.

6) Pettee Square redesign project

Jeff R. will contact Jack N. and Councilor Humphrey to get the status on this project and the source of funds.

Patty C. reminded us that we contacted Devra Bailin (Economic Development Director) for a presentation on this project in September 2020. Others thought perhaps, she or someone else might be willing to come back to NUFAC to report on the current status of this project.

7) Northland Updates (10 minutes)

Jay W. reported that he had a tour of the site, but other than that the project is currently focused on sublevel work and their plan is to begin applying for permits in October.

8) Village Day Planning: proposed dates

Some mitigating factors for the date: School Year, Election Year, etc...

September 10th? October 1st Carol S. will check her calendar for availability on these dates.

9) General Upper Falls News (5 minutes)

Jeff R. gave a quick update on elections for Area Councils. The City initially proposed June as opposed to November. As of now, the City will stick to the November date for these elections. Mail-in ballots are still unclear, but Jeff will report back to NUFAC on this Re: Feast of the Falls 2023? Marie J. reported that Octoberfest 2022 was so successful that it might be the preferred event for this year.

Jay asked about the School Committee/City Councilor Election Debates that Area Councils were asked to host and rotate with other Area Councils.

10) Elliot Street Traffic

Update from Julie on the origin of this request: The original petition was submitted to the City back in 2017 (by Julie and Brice Hobbs (203 Elliot St). Julie asked if the Traffic Council could come to NUFAC to present the possible solutions before the project moves forward. The company Beta and the Complete Streets group were hired to develop the plan to calm traffic.

11) Public Comment/Questions?

Some updates from Jeff from Historic Commission
Property on Chestnut St@Sullivan Ave is doing work
959 Chestnut St is moving forward

14 Summer St -The Developer has put the property back on the market

13 Winter St is really moving forward and will put on the market soon

Stone Garage on Spring St received approval from the Historic Commission

12) 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.