

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024

Mayor's Newton Update



Flash Flooding and Strong Winds Tonight

Our forecasters are predicting an impactful storm overnight.

Starting with a brief mix of wet snowflakes sometime this afternoon, the storm switches over to rain which will fall heavily, especially after midnight. We can expect rainfall totals of 2" – 2.5" or more by 6 a.m. (which is a lot of rain in a short period), accompanied

by wind gusts potentially in excess of 50 mph. With the rising temperatures we will have snowmelt as well.

This is all coming at us as we continue to clean up from the weekend snow, with many of our storm drains still snow-clogged. As a result, we're concerned about flash flooding causing road closures. In addition to flooding, the strong wind gusts are likely to bring down trees, further impacting travel conditions and causing power outages overnight. The rain tapers tomorrow morning but the winds remain gusty on Wednesday.

Newton's Police, Fire, DPW and Forestry teams are in place and ready to respond.

If you feel comfortable clearing snow from storm drains near your home or business, we would be grateful for your help.

Consider fully charging phones and other devices before the storm and leaving yourself some additional travel time in your Wednesday commute.

If you see a downed power line or pole, please report it to Eversource at 800-592-2000 and stay away from the hazard until officials from the utility company are on the scene and are able to make the area safe for our crews to begin their work.

If you lose power, please report it directly to Eversource at 1-800-592-2000.

If you need assistance during the storm, please contact Newton's Customer Service at 617-796-1000.

In an emergency, call 911.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Newton has reached **40B Safe Harbor Status** for the first time in Newton's history. This **milestone** means that Newton is now over the State's minimum affordable unit threshold of 10%. A building permit was issued yesterday, Monday, January 8, to the new owners of Dunstan East to construct 292 residential units, 73 of which would be permanently affordable. (For more information on all of this, please see a detailed memo [here](#)). This will allow Newton's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to claim "safe harbor" status, and enforce local zoning requirements for future affordable housing project applications proposed under Chapter 40B. (Notably, the ZBA cannot claim "safe harbor" status for applications it has already received, including current housing applications for 528 Boylston, 41 Washington Street and 78 Crafts Street).

By meeting the affordable unit threshold of 10%, Newton has met one of the two State requirements in order to move forward with new construction and major renovation projects being all-electric as part of the State's Municipal Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program. (The other requirement is passing the related ordinance, which is underway in the City Council). Please read more [here](#).



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