**JOINT ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE AND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

December 11, 2023



Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor

Barney Heath

Director

Planning & Development

Joseph Iadonisi

Senior Planner

**Members**

Kelley Brown, Chair

Kevin McCormick, Vice Chair

Lee Breckenridge, Member

Amy Dain, Member

Peter Doeringer, Member

Jennifer Molinsky, Member

Barney Heath, *ex officio*

1000 Commonwealth Ave.

Newton, MA 02459

T 617-796-1120

F 617-796-1142

[www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov)

**Members present:**

Kelley Brown, Chair

Kevin McCormick, Vice-Chair

Lee Breckenridge, Member

Amy Dain, Member

Peter Doeringer, Member

Barney Heath, *ex officio*

**Staff present:**

Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development

Andrew Lee, Senior Associate City Solicitor

Joseph Iadonisi, Senior Planner

1. **Joint Public Hearing on docket item #376-23 Petition to rezone lot on Dedham Street**

Councilor Crossley, Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee began the meeting by introducing the matter of the proposed rezoning of the lot on Dedham St. The attorney representing the applicants, Ms. Katherine Adams, summarized the background for the rezoning of the lot. The property, former site of a water tower belonging to the City, was sold to the abutting property owners on the condition that it be rezoned while remaining restricted to open space or recreational uses in perpetuity or the next 99 years. Following the applicants’ introduction and brief clarification as to the previously established restrictions between the Zoning and Planning Committee and Associate City Solicitor, Mr. Andrew Lee, the Zoning and Planning Committee opened the public hearing.

Residents asked to the purpose of the sale of the property and the process for the City to sell the property. Mr. Lee clarified that the sale of the property makes the property private rather than public. Director Heath and Councilors Crossley and Danberg further detailed the process of the sale, including the noticing of abutters, reuse process, and bid process.

Councilor Susan Albright moved to close the Public Hearing on behalf of the Zoning and Planning Committee, which the ZAP voted unanimously to do so. The Planning Board moved to close the public hearing upon a motion from Mr. McCormick and a vote of 6-0-1.

Councilor Ryan moved to approve the rezoning of the lot on behalf of ZAP, which was approved unanimously. Mr. McCormick moved to approve the rezoning of the lot, and the Board voted 5-0-1 to approve.

1. **Adjournment**

With the conclusion of the rezoning docket item, the Planning Board adjourned.