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Barney S. Heath  
Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 10, 2020

**TO:** Councilor Deborah Crossley, Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Members of the Zoning & Planning Committee

**FROM:** Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development  
Jennifer Caira, Deputy Director of Planning  
Katy Hax Holmes, Chief, Preservation Planning

**RE:** **#37-20 Amend ordinances by creating a temporary suspension on landmark designation**  
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, AUCHINCLOSS, CROSSLEY, DOWNS, KELLEY, LIPOF, GREENBERG, KRINTZMAN, COTE, NOEL, LEARY, AND DANBERG proposing an amendment to Chapter 22 of the Revised Ordinance of the City of Newton, 2017 to temporarily suspend nominations made by the Historical Commission and the City Council for landmark designations of any land, buildings and structures in the City of Newton in order to allow the City adequate time to review the landmark ordinance and consider what revisions are appropriate. The temporary suspension will prevent and suspend the processing, and approval of any property currently under consideration for landmark designation and will temporarily suspend future landmark nominations made by the Historical Commission and the City Council. Landmark nominations made by the Mayor, Director of Planning and Development and the Commissioner of Inspectional Services shall not be affected. This temporary suspension shall end no later than December 31, 2020.

**MEETING:** January 13, 2020

**CC:** John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services  
Alissa O. Giuliani, City Solicitor  
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

RECEIVED  
Newton City Clerk  
2020 JAN 10 AM 11:39  
DAVID A. OLSON, CMC  
NEWTON, MA 02459

This item was originally docketed as #244-30 in July 2019 and was subsequently held by the Council. The item was re-docketed this year as #37-20.

Established in 1993 under City Ordinance Chapter 22, Sections 22-60 through 22-75, Newton's Local Landmark Ordinance was created to serve as a municipal tool to preserve the City's most historically significant buildings. The Landmarks Ordinance in the City of Newton provides the highest level of protection for properties determined to be the most architecturally or historically significant. Under the Landmarks program, the Newton Historical Commission

can choose to permanently preserve buildings, structures, landscapes, and places that define the historic character of the city and have, over time, helped to establish a sense of place.

In addition to the Newton Historical Commission, the Mayor, members of the City Council, the Director of Planning and Development or the Commissioner of Inspectional Services may nominate properties as landmarks. Landmarks are designated at a public hearing of the Newton Historical Commission by a 3/4 vote of the Commission. In order to be eligible for Landmark status, a property must either be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Once a property becomes a local landmark, the Newton Historical Commission reviews proposed changes to landmarked properties as though they were included in a local historic district. This means that any alterations to the exterior of the structure, such as demolition, additions, renovations, deterioration by neglect, or new construction, must be reviewed and approved by the Newton Historical Commission. Designation of a local landmark means that the decision is filed with the Registry of Deeds.

Newton currently has 22 Local Landmarks from the last 35 years. A list of the properties and the year they were landmarked appears below:

- 286 Waverley Avenue, Newton Corner – Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds (1993)
- 473 Auburn Street, Auburndale – Whittemore Tavern (1993)
- 65-71 Walnut Park, Newton Corner – John Potter House (1994)
- 50 Fairlee Road, Waban – John Woodward House (1994)
- 401 Woodward Street, Waban – Eleazor Hyde House (1994)
- 35 Webster Street, West Newton – Nathaniel Topliff Allen House (1998)
- 2276 Washington Street, Newton Lower Falls – Ware Paper Mill (2000)
- 29-31 Elmwood Street, Newton Corner – William J. Jacques House (2001)
- 320 Nevada Street, Nonantum – Silver Lake Cordage Company (2001)
- 12 Drumlin Road, Oak Hill – TAC #1, Kaplan House (2003)
- 1734 Beacon Street, Waban – Frederick A. Collins House (2003)
- 64 Hancock Street, Auburndale – United Parish of Auburndale (2004)
- 236-242 Islington Road, Auburndale – Islington Estate Staff Quarters (2004)
- 1515-1529 Washington Street, West Newton – St. Bernard's Church and Rectory (2005)
- 29 Greenwood Street, Oak Hill - Gershom Hyde House and Barn (2005)
- 450 Winchester Street, Oak Hill – Floyd House (2008)
- 17-19 Channing Street, Newton Corner – Thayer House (2010)
- 424-432 Cherry Street, West Newton – Samuel Warren Tavern (2012)
- 1615 Beacon Street, Waban – Staples-Craft-Wiswall Farm (2015)
- 36 Walnut Park, Newton Corner – Rev. John A. Hamilton House (2016)
- 391 Dedham Street, Newton Center – Ebenezer Stone House (2017)
- 128 Chestnut Street, West Newton – Lambert-Jones House (2018)