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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 23, 2018

TO: Councilor Susan Albright, Chair
Members of the Zoning and Planning Committee

FROM: Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development
James Freas, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Zoning Redesign

MEETING DATE: March 25, 2018

CC: City Council
Planning and Development Board
Ouida Young, City Solicitor

On March 15th, 2018 the Planning Department hosted the seventh of a series of topic-based Zoning Redesign events. This event was titled *Building Shape, Size, and Form in Neighborhoods and Village Centers* and focused on how Newton's zoning ordinance could incorporate the basic design principles that define Newton's great villages and neighborhoods. For the upcoming Zoning and Planning Committee meeting staff will share the presentation from this event, review the comments and discussion from the public, and facilitate a discussion of the same topics with the Committee. Attached is an info sheet from the event, which describes the topics that were presented. Staff will provide the event Summary Report for the Committee at the meeting.

Building Shape, Size, and Form in Neighborhoods and Village Centers #75-18

March 15, 2018 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street

www.courbanize.com/newtonzoning

Zoning is one of the most important tools the City has to ensure that the basic design principles that define Newton's great villages and neighborhoods are maintained even as buildings change over time. In Newton's villages the streets are lined with open shopfronts and frequent building entrances that make for a lively and interesting pedestrian environment. For many of Newton's neighborhoods, there is a consistent context of building scale and setback that makes for a pleasing sense of community. In either of these environments, the architectural style and the building materials can vary, as long as these design principles are reinforced and maintained.

What are the design principles that make for a great village center or neighborhood?

On March 15th, we will explore how Newton's Zoning Ordinance could:

- Maintain and enhance the great design found in many of the city's villages and neighborhoods.
- Introduce these same design principles into other parts of the city so that we improve our commercial areas and provide greater contextual consistency in neighborhoods as they change.
- Provide options for addressing the issue of tear-downs / mansionization in residential neighborhoods.
- Guide appropriate building forms in areas that transition between village centers, commercial areas, and neighborhoods.

