

Memo

To: Zoning and Planning Committee Members

From: Brian Yates, Chair

Subject: Cancellation of August 16 Meeting.

As you recall at the last Committee meeting on July 2, I called a meeting for August 16 in the hope that we could reduce the number of items on the agenda by moving No Action Necessary on items with similar subject matters to later more developed items and by discussion of how to carry out the review of the Comprehensive Plan scheduled for public hearing in early September. After consideration of the likelihood of a productive meeting in the middle of August, I have decided to cancel the meeting. I would ask to you to review the items before the Committee, particularly those sponsored by you, and decide if any can be moved No Action Necessary without discussion. Also please review the Comprehensive Plan as distributed to you in the white binder or on the city's web site so that you come to the public hearing in September well prepared. If you have any thoughts about how we should act on the Plan, please e-mail me at byates@newtonma.gov or call me at 617-244-2601 or share them at the Board meeting.

Although I'm happy to give you all this respite, please keep in mind that we have a very heavy agenda of items that have broad importance to residents and property owners in the city and that have had extensive citizen participation in their development. They include the Comprehensive Plan, the Zoning Task Force items, the Demolition Delay Ordinance Amendments (the Historic Commission had a two-page agenda with 24 items) and the Planned Multi-Use Business Development. I believe that these items are of the highest importance and should be addressed by the end of the term if at all possible. Some of you have urged me to take up other items as well. I would like to accommodate all such requests but I see no way to do so at the expense of the listed items. Focused discussion leading to definitive decisions of these items will be necessary to enable us to take up other major items. Please think of how the Zoning and Planning Committee can be most productive in the next four months before items must be referred to the next Board or voted No Action Necessary.