

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

7:30 PM  
Room 209

#73-09      PRESIDENT BAKER, ALD. HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, ALBRIGHT, LENNON, SALVUCCI, LINSKY & SCHNIPPER requesting discussion of the recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Group as may be relevant for long-range planning for the City for coming fiscal years.

(a) Areas of interest.

(b) Priorities for 2010-2011 term.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman Stephen Linsky, Chair

**From:** DEBORAH CROSSLEY [mailto:djcrossley26@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2010 5:57 PM  
**To:** Stephen Linsky  
**Cc:** lennon scott  
**Subject:** LONG RANGE PLANNING

Steve,

To respond to the call for items for the LRP committee to consider, I submit the following:

**Facilities Operations Management: Maintenance and Capital Needs Planning**

This item may belong in PF and then Finance, but it would be good to get a clear idea of what we need to do to develop the comprehensive assessment of municipal facilities that we need to get started.

No matter how city departments are restructured so as to provide ongoing maintenance and replacement, Step One is to compile good data on the condition and needs over time of each and every facility and all of its components. The school department has begun to do this in its work with HMFH Architects several years ago - and we will gain some information from the ESCO project. However, to efficiently and proactively take care of a large physical plant like we have in Newton - especially with scarce resources - we need better tools. Once we can put together a strategy that would keep what we own well maintained and working efficiently, then the struggle is to identify the resources needed. In some cases, we may be better positioned to take advantage of resources we discover.

**Comprehensive Zoning Reform**

- a. for clarity and consistency (ZAP)
- b. to support community housing, transportation and other development objectives per the Comp Plan'

Ultimately this all belongs in ZAP, but we could discuss both the goals and objectives as well as the practical matters of how to move this forward successfully, what professional expertise to engage, how to write the RFP for the service we need in order to assure the result works for Newton - and how to pay for the investment. The latter could be related to the next item....

What is the relationship of this exercise to:

- achieving a housing plan that provides for a diverse population?
  - transportation planning, including bike and pedestrian travel?
  - revitalizing our village centers
  - encouraging mixed use development along commercial corridors
- etc.

**Green Communities Act**

I suggest we use the LR committee to investigate what it would take to merit a "Green Community" badge from the state.

There are five requirements to meet,; alternatives exist within each one. Newton has met one by adopting the Stretch code. The other four are doable, especially if we act expeditiously. There are lots of particulars.... but to oversimplify :

1. Enact by-right siting of renewable or alternative energy generating, and/or R&D, and/or manufacturing facilities in designated locations.
2. Re #1, adopt an expedited permitting process (not to exceed one year)
3. Establish an energy use baseline inventory for all public buildings, streetlights and vehicles (we have \_\_\_\_\_ this), and put in place a program to reduce the baseline by 20% over five years....(we've begun..)
4. Purchase only fuel efficient city vehicles... (there are exceptions) can do this.
- 5 Stretch code. DONE

One reason to explore/ understand this SOON is that designated municipalities are eligible for grants from a fund identified as having seven million dollars in it for FY 2010. No community has yet received the designation.

The program is being rolled out shortly. We could learn more at MMA tomorrow. Time may be of the essence as we have to earn the badge before we can apply for the grant and we want to capture some of the work we have ongoing.

There are many citizens interested in this last item, including the energy commission, Green Decade coalition and High Performance Buildings coalition.

**Thank you,**

Deborah J. Crossley  
ALDERMAN

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