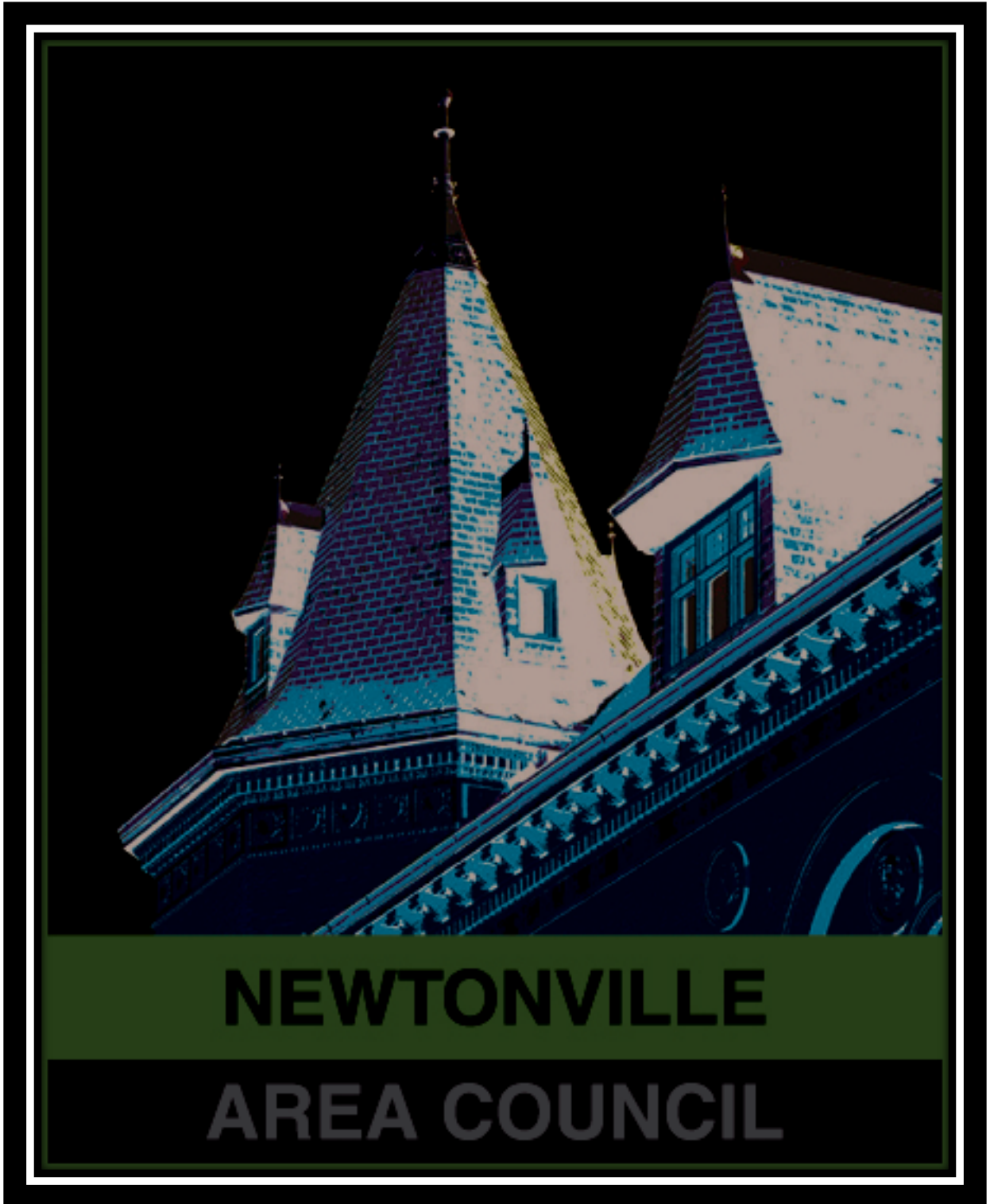


**Newtonville
Area Council
2015 Annual Report**



December 31, 2015

Board of Aldermen
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton MA 02459

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Aldermen:

Pursuant to Section 9-10 of the City Charter, the Newtonville Area Council is pleased to provide you with this Annual Report of its activities for the calendar year 2015.

Sincerely,

Marc Kaufman
President

About the Newtonville Area Council

The Board of Alderman approved the creation of the Newtonville Area Council on March 18, 2013, as an auxiliary means of communications between the city and residents. Nine members were elected in September of 2013 and were sworn in on January 9th of 2014. Our members are Stephen Bart, Newtonville, Jacqueline Freeman, North Street, Joy Huber, Whitney Road, Marc Kaufman, Walnut Street, Wayne Koch, Greylock Road, Thomas Kraus, Walnut Street, Barbara Perlo, Gibson Road, Helene Sroat, Wildwood Avenue, and Tim Stone, Briar Lane. Ward 2 Alderman Emily Norton is a member, ex-officio.

In January of 2015 the following officers were elected by a vote of the Newtonville Area Council:

President — Marc Kaufman

Vice-President — Thomas Kraus

Secretary — Jacqueline Freeman

Treasurer — Helene Sroat

Currently, the Area Council has no Subcommittees.

Communication

The Area Council generally meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Newton Senior Center on Walnut Street, at 7 p.m. All of the Area Council meetings are open to the public. The council uses the Beautiful Newtonville email distribution list to let residents know about important events and meetings.

Secretary Freeman maintains the council's webpage on the city's website.

(<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/neighborhood/newtonville/default.asp>)

On it you can find upcoming meeting times, agendas, minutes, by-laws and other materials. It also lists contact information for all members.

Work of the Area Council

Austin Street

A majority of the work of the Area Council in 2015 has again focused on the Austin Street Development Project. Members targeted their efforts by compiling presentations to the Land Use Committee of the Board of Alderman on specific parts of the Austin Street Partner's proposal. Members spoke on Survey Results, Pre-development Parking, Building Materials, Size and Scale, Public Plaza, Post-Development Parking Analysis and Improvements to Walnut Street. After presenting to the committee, the council sent summaries of their presentations to Land Use and posted them on-line.

In April, the council voted to send a list of questions to the Legal Department with regards to the Austin Street proposal.

The council ended the year by sending several letters reviewing the Land Use Committee's Board Order on Austin Street point by point with in-depth analysis to the full Board of Alderman. Member Kraus also served on the construction parking task force.

Walnut Street

Plans to widen the sidewalks and repave Walnut Street have been pushed back again. Parts of Walnut Street up to Cabot Street have been repaved but the Newtonville portion has been delayed until 2018. Council members have expressed concern at various Austin Street meetings that the project not be linked to the Austin Street project. Several members plan to meet with Commissioner McGonagle to explain the council's position. Members have tried to come up with other strategies to help advance the project, including reaching out to our Aldermen and the TAB newspaper.



Village Day



The Council took over the planning of Newtonville Village Day from the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. Members reached out to area businesses to assess their needs and concerns for a successful Village

Day. Member Huber solicited donations, sponsors and vendors. Huber made this the most successful Village Day to date, raising almost \$10,000. The council earmarked a large portion of this money for Walnut Street improvements, such as benches and planters.

Candidates Forum

The Council hosted a well-attended Voter Forum for the five candidates for Ward Two Alderman-at-large. Member Kraus served as moderator, and Member Bart served as timer. Candidates had time to introduce themselves and offer concluding remarks as well as answer questions drafted by the council with input from the public.

Newtonville Area Council Elections

The City held elections for the Newtonville Area Council on Village Day in September, with extended voting at City Hall. Twelve people ran for the 9-member council, including six incumbents. All six incumbents were elected. The new council will be sworn in in January 2016.

Members include Peter Bruce, Joyce H. Huber, Marc D. Kaufman, Wayne Koch, Thomas D. Kraus, Colleen M. Minaker, Susan Reisler, Helene K. Sroat, and Timothy D. Stone.

Storage Facility Proposal

The council heard a presentation on a proposal for a 1,000-unit storage facility on Newtonville Avenue. They allowed for comments and questions from neighbors to the attorney for the developer.

Cabot School

Members of the council have attended meetings regarding the renovation of Cabot School.

Financial Report

The Area Council does not receive any direct funding from the city. In order to establish a Newtonville Area Council bank account with the City, the council sent a letter to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. It was approved, and the council now has a bank account with the City, accessed through the City Comptroller, and a petty cash fund through Village Bank. Quarterly reports are filed with the Comptroller.

For the year ending 2015, the Newtonville Area Council raised \$15,780.00 in revenue from Newtonville Village Day donations, booth rentals, and a silent auction. During that same time period, the Newtonville Area Council spent \$6,187.85, the great majority of which was for costs associated with Newtonville Village Day. (\$32.94 was spent for checks for the council's newly opened Village Bank checking account.) The Newtonville Area Council ended 2015 with \$9,417.15. \$2,433.80 is in our petty cash account with Village Bank and \$6,983.35 is in our account with the City of Newton.

