

## Newtonville Area Council Minutes for October 11, 2018

Members present: Maura Harrington, Peter Bruce, Colleen Minaker, Helene Sroat, Susan Reisler, Dana D'Agostino, Marc Kaufman, Tarik Lucas

Absent: Tom Kraus

Public Guests: Lily Reynolds from the Planning Dept., Councilor Susan Albright, Peter Harrington, Laurie Palepu, Patricia Loewy

7:05 pm. Maura Harrington opened the meeting. The Sept. minutes were approved with one revision by Tarik. He noted that Garden Remedies could lose their special permit to sell retail marijuana in Newton if the Opt Out ballot question prevails in the November election. Maura updated the information about the MBTA tree clear cutting along Washington St. More cutting will be done for safety reasons. No trees will be replaced but some low shrubs may be planted. The city will plant trees on the city property next to the fencing.

The NewArt Center will hold its first fund raiser on Oct. 21.

Laurie Palepu spoke to the NAC about her groups campaign called "Opt Out". The campaign gathered signatures for a ballot question in opposition to marijuana retail sales in Newton. She outlined several reasons for their opposition platform. Patricia Loewy and Susan Albright followed Laurie. Both favor regulating retail marijuana sales in Newton. Their campaign and ballot question seeks to allow 2 to 8 shops.

7:45 pm. Lily Reynolds outlined the upcoming presentation at Newton North on October 24, from 6:00 pm. to 8:30 pm. Russ Preston from the Principle Group will outline their report about the city planned vision for Washington St. Also, they will present their draft of the Rezoning of Land Use ordinances throughout the city. Lily will provide a gallery of pictures of possible images of Washington St. the public will offer their views on the city's vision. Public response and questions will follow.

The NAC will speak at the opening of the meeting and outline for the public the Survey Analysis Report which our group conducted in 2018 to understand the public response to these city wide zoning and land redevelopment policy changes. The Principle group also conducted a public survey. Maura Harrington offered to write a letter to Barney Heath, head of Planning to clarify common themes and significant differences of the 2 different surveys. Lily asked the NAC to pass out fliers to the public for the event.

8:15 p.m. Peter Harrington discussed the possible land use development at McGuire Court. He announced that Robert Korff the developer has stopped action on his deal to purchase several properties.

8:30 pm. Susan Reisler discussed the Survey analysis. She has made

a bound copy of the report. Who should receive an electronic copy and how many bound copies should be printed? Also, an opening paragraph is needed to introduce the report. Maura offered to write this. Peter Harrington praised the fine report. He offered to send bound copies to the city councilors. He would also include with the analysis the raw data and open ended responses. He recommended that several photos of Newtonville amenities and businesses be added.

Councilor Albright announced there would be future Ward meetings set up to allow public response for the proposed zoning changes. Maura and Susan will set the dates which will take place over the next 3 months.

9:00 pm. How to distribute the Survey Analysis? On October 15, the NAC will distribute the electronic report. Thirty hard copies will be printed and distributed to the city.

Tarik Lucas will write the cover paragraph to accompany the report PDF. This will announce the Survey Analysis Report. A newly completed NAC mailing list will be used. Constant Contact will be used.

9:50 pm. the NAC meeting adjourned. Next meeting is November 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Minaker, secretary