

To: The Newton Charter Commission

From: Karen Manning and Chris Steele

Re: Materials and Approach, Article 7 Review

Date: May 24, 2016

This cover letter accompanies the other documentation used in preparation for the Commission's May 25th discussion of Article 7: Planning:

- An annotated copy of Article 7 that includes comments from the two of us and the Collins Center
- Chapter 22 of the Newton Municipal Ordinance, which describes Planning
- Chapter 705, Acts of 1975 (as amended by St. 1982, c. 472, St. 1989, c. 499, St. 2007, c. 73) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF NEWTON.
- MGL Chapter 41 Section 81D – Master Plan; Economic Development Supplement
- May 4 memorandum from the Collins Center: Massachusetts Charter Planning Mentions
- Minutes from Article 7 May 4 Public Hearing/Panel

The testimony from the public session on May 4, our own research, and the data that we have received from the Collins Center reflect that it is unusual for a charter to contain an article focused on planning. Indeed, items outlined as part of our own current charter in Article 7 have been superseded by the Act of 1975, Chapter 705 legislation. (refer to annotated article).

A charter review uncovers municipal issues and concerns, but all problems cannot and should not be expected to be resolved through the charter. It is likely that some of the points raised through our discussion will not result in changes to the charter, but instead will be considered for inclusion as part of our charter review report or the updated charter's transitional provisions.

We look forward to beginning this discussion on Wednesday.

Chris and Karen