

Newton Charter Commission

Article 7: Planning

We look forward to a robust discussion with the Commission and the community about what is viewed as suitable for our charter with regard to Article 7: Planning.

Our objective is to gather data and testimony we expect will be useful no matter how our review unfolds.

Below, SPGA refers to “Special Permit Granting Authority”.

The following questions will be the basis for our discussion:

1. Are there any particular strengths or weaknesses in Newton's current planning framework you would like to highlight? (To those who work in other municipalities, we appreciate your observations.)
2. Are you of the mindset that the SPGA should be with a) the legislature b) an elected planning body or c) an appointed planning body.

Please highlight what you view as the most critical benefits and drawbacks.

3. Do you have ideas for SPGA [or other] best practices that could improve Newton's planning and land use processes?
4. Do you have a comment or opinion about whether Planning and/or SPGA should be addressed within Newton's charter?