

Newton Housing Partnership
Meeting Summary from June 18, 2019 Meeting
Newton City Hall
6:00-8:00pm

Partnership Members in Attendance: Rev. Mark Caggiano, Eliza Datta, Chuck Eisenberg, John Hennessey, Lizbeth Heyer, Josephine McNeil, Kathleen Marchi, Marva Serotkin, Stephen Tise

Others in Attendance: Barney Heath, Amanda Berman, members of the public

Open Meeting Law Training

Attorney Maura O'Keefe from the City of Newton Law Department presented an overview of the Open Meeting Law. The law is intended to underscore that matters of the City are public and all should be open, available to the public and that there is trust in the process. The attorney highlighted actions that require special attention such as assuring a quorum, how to avoid a serial meeting violation, and prohibition of adding agenda items after the agenda has been published. The difference between a formal subcommittee and ad hoc group was discussed. Other issues discussed included emailing and texting.

Approval of May 14, 2019 Meeting Summary

Summary of the meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Chuck Eisenberg and a second by Mark Caggiano.

Hello Washington Street Vision Plan and Zoning Discussion

Barney Heath explained that the scope of Hello Washington Street has been reduced to the area between Crafts Street and the West Newton T stop. ZAP will hear the plan at their July 15th AND 29th meetings. A public hearing will be scheduled in September. It was recommended that the NHP submit testimony between the two July meetings. Discussion from the members identified that the final plan should include consideration of need for affordable housing, transportation, schools and environment. Messaging from NHP should include these considerations.

West Newton plans were also discussed. There is a developer working on a plan to develop the section of Washington Street from Sweet Tomatoes to the

Armory. 440 units are projected by the developer. Also, there has been some discussion about a 10-story project at the West Newton T stop.

West Newton Armory Affordable Housing Development Consultant Scope of Work Review

A scope of work draft was distributed. Recommendations were made by NHP members to include the following:

- Previous feasibility analysis experience
- Historic preservation
- Title search
- RFP vs RFQ
- Target population
- Clarify affordable housing or another public use section

Lizbeth Heyer will determine the NHP working group to assist the Planning Department in finalizing the document. It was stated that the City will be pursuing grant funding for the feasibility study.

Northland Project Presentation by the Planning Department

The project includes 800 units, 180,000 square feet of office space, retail on the first floor. The developer has increased the number of affordable units from his original plan to include a total of 140 affordable units (20 units for middle income 80-110 AMI). As proposed the project will meet recommended changes to the IZ ordinance. Transportation, parking and density were discussed. Approaches to decoupling parking from rent, especially for affordable units was discussed.

The NHP working group for Northland is lead by Josephine McNeil with members Chuck Eisenberg and John Hennessey.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 23, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Marva Serotkin