

Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 27, 2016
Newton Senior Center
345 Walnut Street. Newtonville MA 02460

Present: B. Dugan, C. Gibson, J-E Heffron, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, E. Lorant, D. Murphy, J. Nordstrand; CA Shea, E. Picard, J. Picard, C. Gibson, M. Knapp,

Notified absence: A. Cooper, N. Brown, H. Haywood, N. Krasner, S. Paley, T. Shoemaker, E. Watkins

Staff: J. Colino, M. Leipsitz, N. Scammon,

Guests: Lily Canan-Reynolds Manager of Community Engagement, Barney Heath, Director of Planning

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Updates/Introductions

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- ◆ Introduction of new staff: Margaret Leipsitz, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
- ◆ Update on COA appointments: J. Colino reported that all (re) appointments to Advisory Board and COA that had been submitted this past summer have been processed., with the exception of one new Advisory Board applicant who has not been interviewed. We have not been able to submit new names for COA Executive Committee because staff person overseeing this process is on medical leave. As a result, there are only three appointed members of the COA Executive Committee: Marian Knapp, Carol Ann Shea, and Beth Dugan. There are now 6 slots unfilled. J. Colino will continue to follow-up and report back.
- ◆ Nancy Scammon will continue to participate in the COA as a staff member, not an appointed member. This will be true for Eric Rosenbaum, as well.

2. Presentation from Planning Department regarding Mayor's Housing Strategy See full report at: <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/69436>

- ◆ Context for Mayor's Housing Strategy-- Guiding principals and goals include: (presented by B. Heath, new to Director Position of Planning since Spring 2016):
 - Preserve what is great about Newton housing – village centers, diverse styles
 - Increase number of housing options (Goal: 800 new units by 2021, on 7 sites)
 - Maintain and increase affordability (20% of new housing to be affordable)

- 70 sites identified as possible of housing development
- ◆ Trends in Newton Housing
 - Household size decreasing
 - Larger Sq. Ft houses and less people per Sq. ft.
 - Need for 1-floor living (1000 to 2000 short)

3. The proposal for an ordinance change for Accessory Apartments was presented by Lily Canan-Reynolds):

- ◆ The ordinance change would provide for two options:
 - Option 1: By Right (If a resident's property fits all specifications regarding adding a unit which involves egress, square footage and parking, they will be able to get a permit to develop unit without a special permitting process)
 - Option 2: By Special Permit (If a resident's property does not fit all specifications regarding a unit they can apply for a special permit which requires a public process/neighbor approval. Currently all variances are done this way)
- ◆ New Accessory Apartment ordinance needs to go before the City Council for approval before anyone can proceed with work. At this time there is mixed support from councilors. Need 16 votes to pass
- ◆ All units must be owner occupied and the occupancy of an accessory unit cannot exceed four additional residents
- ◆ Accessory Apartment ordinance Listening Session scheduled for November 4 @ Newton Senior Center
- ◆ Letters of support are encouraged to be sent to the TAB

3. Committee Reports:

- ◆ Housing committee working on a draft Housing Guide. It is suggested that COA get the guide created by Berkshire County. J.Colino will contact Bobby Cossi to get for COA to review.
- ◆ M. Knapp will attend meeting to review the City's snow removal plan that will explore fines for not shoveling. Meeting Convened by Vicki Danberg and Andrea Downs
- ◆ Next meeting will be held: October 25, 2016, 7:30, Newton Senior Center

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted by Margaret Leipsitz and Marian Knapp