



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Department of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

#88-20
Telephone
(617) 796-1120
Telefax
(617) 796-1142
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

Barney S. Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 2, 2020

TO: Councilor Deborah Crossley, Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee
Members of the Zoning & Planning Committee

FROM: Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development
Zachery LeMel, Chief of Long Range Planning

RE: **#88-20 Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance**
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING requesting review, discussion, and direction relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance.
Other docket items to be taken up within the context of Zoning Redesign include #30-20, #38-20, and #148-20

MEETING: July 9, 2020

CC: City Council
Planning Board
John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services
Alissa O. Giuliani, City Solicitor
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

Previous Meeting (6/29) Takeaways

Thank you to everyone that attended, and spoke, at the June 29 ZAP meeting. The thoughtful comments, ideas, and questions by Committee members, other City Councilors, and Planning and Development Board members have provided staff with the guidance to revise and update Article 3 – Residents Districts of the draft Zoning Ordinance. Staff plan to share the revised zoning language for Article 3 in advance of the ZAP August meetings.

Upcoming Meetings (7/9 and 7/16)

The Planning Department has engaged local architects and builders to lend their professional expertise in reviewing the draft Zoning Ordinance. This effort, known as the Architects Focus Group, runs in parallel with ZAP and other community engagement as part of the overall Zoning Redesign project. At the upcoming meetings on July 9 and July 16, participants of the Architects Focus Group will have the opportunity to present to, and take questions directly from, the Committee, other City Council members, and the Planning and Development Board. Topics that may be discussed relevant to Article 3 include Building Components, nonconformities, sustainability, FAR vs. Building Types, and Alternative

Lot/Building Configurations. Presenters may showcase case studies using their recent projects in Newton as relevant to the given topic. Staff hopes this leads to a productive conversation, with results that will further help revise and update Article 3 to not only achieve the stated goals and objectives, but also make it more intuitive and user friendly.

Looking Ahead

In addition to the upcoming ZAP meetings, staff plan to host two public office hours (July 8 and 22) and two Architects Focus Groups (July 15 and 29). As mentioned above, the Planning Department is working to update and revise the Article 3 zoning language in advance of the ZAP August meetings.