

City of Newton, Massachusetts

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Ruthanne Fuller Mayor Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Barney S. Heath Director

ZONING REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2021

- To: John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services
- From: Jane Santosuosso, Chief Zoning Code Official
- Cc: Norton Point Warren Street LLC David Oliveri, Applicant Barney S. Heath, Director of Planning and Development Jonah Temple, Assistant City Solicitor

RE: Request to allow four single-family attached dwellings

Applicant: Norton Point Warren Street LLC			
Site: 145 Warren Street	SBL: 61039 0010		
Zoning: MR1	Lot Area: 23,399 square feet		
Current use: Single-family dwelling	Proposed use: Four single-family attached dwellings		

BACKGROUND:

The property at 145 Warren Street consists of 23,399 square feet and is improved with a single-family dwelling built in 1916 and a detached accessory building in the MR1 zoning district.

The petitioners propose to add one unit directly to the back rear of the existing dwelling, and construct two additional units behind them. The front and rear units are connected by a ground level shared garage with a courtyard space above it.

The following review is based on plans and materials submitted to date as noted below.

- Zoning Review Application, prepared by David Oliveri, dated 11/9/2020
- Elevations and sections, signed and stamped by Andrew Consigli, architect, dated 11/9/2020
- Zoning Plan, signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter, surveyor, dated 11/4/2020



ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATIONS:

- 1. The petitioners propose to construct four single-family attached dwellings in the Multi Residence 1 zoning district. Per section 3.4.1, a special permit is required to construct attached dwellings in the MR1 district.
- 2. Section 3.2.4 requires a 25-foot setback for attached dwellings. The petitioners intend to preserve the existing historically significant single-family dwelling and make rear additions. The existing structure does not meet the 25-foot side setback requirement with setbacks of 14.4 feet on the westerly side and 23 feet on the easterly side. The proposed additions result in a decrease of the western side setback to 17.3 feet and the eastern side setback to 18.6 feet. Section 3.2.4 allows the City Council to grant exceptions to the dimensional standards of the section if it is determined that literal compliance is impractical due to the nature of the use, or the location, size, frontage, depth, shape or grade of the lot, or that such exceptions would be in the public interest, or in the interest of safety, or protection of environmental features.
- 3. The proposed additions result in a lot coverage of 33.6%, which exceeds the allowable 25% per section 3.2.4 requiring a waiver.
- 4. The petitioners propose to utilize and extend the existing driveway along the eastern property line to serve all four units which is less than 10 feet from the boundary. Per section 6.2.3.B.2, no driveway may be located within 10 feet of a side or rear lot line. requiring a waiver.
- 5. Retaining walls are proposed at the eastern and western property boundaries, as well as directly behind the proposed rear addition. The eastern and western walls are located within the required 25-foot setback. The eastern wall reaches a maximum height of 6 feet and the western has a maximum height of four feet. Per section 5.4.2.B, a retaining wall four feet or more in height in the setback requires a special permit.

MR1 Zone	Required	Existing	Proposed
Lot Size	15,000 square feet	23,399 square feet	No change
Frontage	80 feet	90 feet	No change
Setbacks			
Front	25 feet	26.6 feet	No change
• Side	25 feet	14.4 feet	17.3 feet
Side	25 feet	23 feet	18.6 feet
Rear	25 feet	170.8 feet	51.1 feet
Building Height	36 feet	24.34 feet	29.42 feet
Max Number of Stories	2.5 (3 by special permit)	1	2.5
Lot Coverage	25%	12.9%	33.6%
Open Space	50%	77.2%	51.9%
Lot Area Per Unit	4,000 square feet	23,399 square feet	5,850 square feet

See "Zoning Relief Summary" below:

Zoning Relief Required			
Ordinance	Requested Relief	Action Required	
§3.4.1	To allow attached single-family dwellings	S.P. per §7.3.3	
§3.2.4	To reduce required side setback	S.P. per §7.3.3	
§3.2.4	To increase allowed lot coverage	S.P. per §7.3.3	
§6.2.3.B.2	To allow a driveway within 10 feet of the side lot line	S.P. per §7.3.3	
§5.4.2.B	To allow retaining walls of four feet or more in height within a setback	S.P. per §7.3.3	