



## Zoning Redesign

The City of Newton's project to redesign the zoning code

### January Newsletter



As this is the first newsletter of 2021, we want to begin by wishing everyone a happy New Year!

Over this past month, staff have worked to compile all the feedback received over the final few months of 2020 through the 'Zoning Redesign: Where We are Now' engagement series. This work was presented at the January 25 Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Committee meeting along with the draft 2021 work plan, which was greatly informed by this community input. Please scroll down to learn more about:

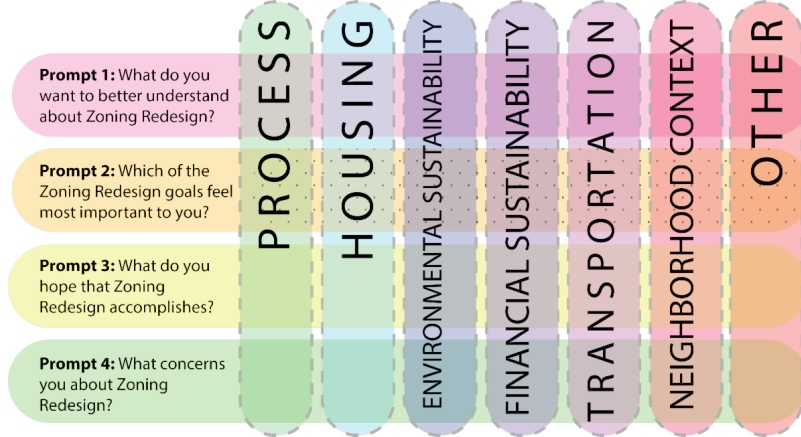
- The outcomes of this month's ZAP Committee meetings, related to Zoning Redesign, the Garage Ordinance, marijuana zoning, and updates to the Research & Development zoning definitions.
- A 'Zoning Redesign: Frequently Asked Questions' document.
- Dates of upcoming ZAP meetings that will discuss Zoning Redesign.

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#### Outcomes of January's ZAP Committee Meetings

*When this newsletter was sent, reports of each of the following meetings had not been issued yet. But when they are, they will be posted on the [Zoning & Planning Committee website here](#).*

**Zoning Redesign:**



At the January 25 ZAP meeting, the Planning Department presented the compiled findings from the December 'Where We Are Now' engagement events. This included information gathered from November to January through the RSVP form, December Zoom events, online survey, and meetings with local stakeholders. The raw data can be found on the [Zoning Redesign Community Engagement webpage](#). In addition to receiving a wide variety of feedback focused on key themes (process, housing, neighborhood context, transportation, environmental/fiscal sustainability, other), staff also used demographic data to learn about what groups of the Newton community we are reaching and more importantly those groups we are not. In short, more participants were older, white, and own their home and relatively few participants were younger (under 35), people of color, and renters. Staff take this disparity seriously and look forward to working closely with the ZAP Committee and community to further transparent and inclusive engagement moving ahead.

The second half of the ZAP discussion focused on a proposed work plan for 2021. At the request of the ZAP Committee, staff worked closely with the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair to develop a proposed work plan using findings from the compiled community events. Staff presented the proposal, but due to the late hour little discussion took place and the Committee agreed to continue the conversation at the next (February 8) meeting. You can find the draft proposal, and the other materials shared at ZAP on the [ZAP City Council webpage](#).

#### *Garage Ordinance:*

On January 25, after several months of study in the ZAP committee, a public hearing on the proposed [Garage Ordinance](#) was held, and closed. On February 8, staff will address a few remaining questions and concerns brought up at the hearing, and ZAP plans to vote on the item.

#### *Marijuana Zoning:*

On January 25, Planning staff introduced proposed changes to the zoning ordinance to allow for marijuana courier and delivery ([see staff memo here.](#)) Adding these allowed uses will bring the ordinance into compliance with new regulations put forth by the Cannabis Control Commission earlier in January. ZAP will hold a public hearing for this item on March 8.

#### *Research & Development Zoning Definitions:*

On January 11, the Economic Development Commission proposed an amendment to the zoning ordinance to clarify inconsistencies in the way Research and Development is treated in the use tables and definitions in the current zoning ordinance. ZAP will hold a public hearing on this item on February 8 ([see staff memo here.](#))

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## FAQ

Planning staff have developed an initial FAQ based on the questions and comments received from the 'Where We Are Now' community input. This should be viewed as an evolving document and staff look forward to updating it regularly. The FAQ can be found on the Zoning Redesign webpage and [downloaded here](#).

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## Dates of Upcoming ZAP Meetings

*The following agenda items are not finalized and subject to change. You can find the Zoom links for these meeting in the agendas, once posted, at [the Zoning & Planning Committee Website](#).*

*February 8, 2021 at 7pm*

- Garage Ordinance (continued discussion and vote)
- Research & Development Ordinance Definitions (Public Hearing)
- Marijuana Zoning (continued discussion)
- Zoning Redesign, 2021 work plan (continued discussion)

*February 22, 2021 at 7pm*

- Historic Working Group proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance revisions (continued discussion)
- Zoning Redesign, synthesis of Article 3 - Residence Districts (continued discussion)

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Visit Zoning Redesign on the web

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