



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

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

Barney S. Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 2nd, 2021

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

FROM: Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development
Jennifer Caira, Deputy Director Department of Planning and Development
Zachery LeMel, Chief of Long Range Planning
Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler, Community Engagement Planner
Cat Kemmett, Planning Associate

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.

MEETING: July 8th, 2021

CC: City Council
Planning Board
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

Zoning Redesign: Village Centers – Engagement and Outreach

Engagement and outreach for Newton’s village centers has been up and running since the end of May. You can read about all the different ways we are engaging with the Newton community in our latest newsletter:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Mayor-Completes-Vision-Kit--Complete-Yours-Too-.html?soid=1105979720296&aid=SjWzl8wu9mA>

So far, some highlights include:

- Receiving almost 250 responses and over 20,000 votes cast in the [Polis Interactive Forum](#)
- Cataloging over 100 [Vision Kit submissions](#) from groups and individuals
- Held four focus groups (Young People:15-24, Creative Communities, Real Estate Brokers & Consultants, and the Economic Development Commission) and have scheduled six more
- Tabled at 3 community events and are scheduling more

Looking Ahead

Staff look forward to a conversation at ZAP on how Councilors are thinking of utilizing the outreach materials to engage with their constituents. To begin the conversation, some Councilors will share their experiences thus far using the Vision Kit and staff will share examples of community member submissions as well. Finally, staff have reached out to all City Councilors individually about how they can engage as well as offering to meet to brainstorm how they can engage their constituents.