



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

Barney Heath  
Director  
Planning & Development

Cat Kemmett, Planning  
Associate

#### Members

Peter Doeringer, Chair  
Sonia Parisca, Vice Chair  
Kelley Brown, Member  
Sudha Maheshwari, Member  
Jennifer Molinsky, Member  
Chris Steele, Member  
Barney Heath, Planning  
Director *ex officio*  
Kevin McCormick, Alternate

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## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD JOINT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

July 13, 2021

#### Members Present:

Peter Doeringer, Chair  
Sudha Maheshwari, Member  
Jennifer Molinsky, Member  
Kelley Brown, Member  
Barney Heath, *ex officio*  
Kevin McCormick, Alternate

CPC members present: Mark Armstrong, Dan Brody, Eliza Datta, Byron Dunker, Robert Maloney, Jennifer Molinsky, Martin Smargiassi, and Judy Weber

Meeting held virtually by Zoom Meeting

#### 1. Zoning & Planning Updates

- Firearms Ban (to be voted on at full City Council)
  - Mr. Heath explained that the firearm ban was voted down at city council on July 12.
- Building Heights Amendment
  - Ms. Kemmett said that the building heights zoning amendment passed on July 12 at city council.
- Zoning Ordinance Cleanup Items
  - Ms. Kemmett said that the department presented on roughly 20 amendments to the zoning ordinance at ZAP on July 8. Many of these proposed changes are minor clarifications, and members of ZAP and the Board had few questions or comments on those. However, several of these changes are more substantial and do entail policy changes and require more research by staff and discussion by ZAP and Board members. In particular, there were questions about a proposed change to the Garage Ordinance and a request for illustrative visuals, which staff will provide for the public hearing. The public hearing for this item is scheduled for August 16.
- Village Center Engagement
  - Ms. Kemmett said that the Long Range Planning team has been working with a team of four local high school interns this summer on on-site community engagement efforts related to village centers. This engagement includes on-the-spot surveying in all of Newton's village centers, in addition to attending some events and surveying at popular gathering spots such as at the YMCA. Staff and the interns have been discussing Zoning Redesign with community members and connecting them to the Polis online interactive forum, encouraging them to engage with Polis and share their thoughts and hopes for the future of village centers.

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Mr. Heath showed Board members how to get to the Polis site. Ms. Kemmett explained that Polis is an open-source software that the city is using to collect statements from Newton community members about village centers. Users can then vote on those statements, stating that they agree, disagree, or choose to pass on that statement. In this way, the city can get a better sense for areas of agreement among participants, and statements that are more polarizing. All statements and votes are anonymous. Mr. Heath emphasized that this is not a scientific poll, but rather a tool the city is using to gather quantitative data about the opinions and sentiment among community members.

Ms. Kemmett encouraged Board members to fill out Polis and to share it with their family, friends, and network. This engagement push will last through probably early September.

## **2. Minutes**

Upon a motion by Mr. Brown and unanimously approved the minutes from June 7 were approved, with Ms. Maheshwari and Mr. Heath abstaining.

## **3. Joint Public Hearing on the Nonantum Village Place Senior Housing Preservation Project (241 Watertown Street)**

Chair Dan Brody opened the Community Preservation Committee's public meeting at 7:00 P.M and joined the Planning Board's in-progress meeting. Mr. Doeringer moved to open the joint Planning and Development Board Public Hearing at that time.

For detailed notes on the proceedings and discussion of this item, please see attached the CPC minutes for this meeting.

Mr. Doeringer suggested a motion that the Planning Board recommend a substantial amendment to the FY22 CDBG annual action plan to allocate \$100,000 in CDBG funds to the capital needs and energy efficient improvements at Nonantum Village Place by CASCAP, Inc. He said that this is consistent with community need and detailed the CDBG conditions associated with the funding. Ms. Maheshwari moved the suggested motion and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5 to 0 with 1 abstention (Mr. Heath). The meeting was then adjourned.