



Memorandum

To: City Council
From: Chair of Zoning & Planning Committee
Re: ZAP Calendar
Date: March 11, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

ZAP leadership and staff continue calendar planning, in order to ensure progress on as many items as possible over the next months - and term.

I attach here an updated list of items so far put before ZAP, categorized by subject area. A slightly revised six-month calendar will be circulated on Monday, *(as Zach's office computer failed and is being replaced)*

Certain climate action plan items related to building energy use will be taken up outside of the committee until a course of action becomes clear regarding zoning.

First, as approved by Council, there will be a Committee of the Whole on March 21, to introduce and explain the "Building Energy Reporting and Reduction Ordinance" (BERDO), like the one in Boston, and to present a draft plan for achieving such ordinances for Newton. Bill Ferguson, Co-Director of Sustainability, is taking the lead on Newton's effort, and Newton Citizen's Energy Commission member, Michael Gevelber, who is an expert on the subject, will describe how it works.

Then there is a list of climate actions that require further research and analysis, that may require working groups and/or a separate committee. These items appear in red on the attached list and how to plan the work will be further discussed at Monday's ZAP meeting.

You might also note that for many of the items which seek to revise development standards, other substantive committees or commissions will begin discussions on these, such as Land Use, UDC, DPW, as appropriate.

As you've seen, our Village Center zoning work is primary, and includes monthly meetings with our consultant to review potential development scenarios both under existing zoning (Feb 28) and under various 'what if' we amend the zoning scenarios

(March 28). The “what if” scenarios seek to achieve what the community engagement process revealed as consensus values.

This Monday we will hear a plan for a community engagement process to review the various scenarios to begin this summer.

As always, let us know what you think - and if you can, join us on Monday!

Deb

Zoning ReDesign: Village Centers

- #38-22 Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance regarding village centers (see detail in Draft calendar, more to come)
- #42-22 Citizens petition to amend the village center district (Hearing Feb. 28)

Housing Choice – MBTA Communities

- #39-22 Requesting discussion on state guidance for implementing Housing Choice Bill**
COW Brief City Council (March 7), submit comments (by March 31)
***** Create Action Plan (by end of 2022)

Housing Discussion & Amendments

- #125-22 Periodic Updates on establishing the Municipal Housing Trust (next docket)
- #44-22 Requesting discussion regarding city plans for housing
- #45-22 Requesting discussion relative to increasing the number of inclusionary units
- #46-22 Requesting discussion relative to single-family attached dwellings
- #47-22 Request for annual update on Newton’s Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI)
- #43-22 Review and amend definition of Two-Family, detached

Sustainability/ Environmental Amendments – Climate Action Plan

- #48-22** Requesting updates on implementing the Climate Action Plan
(ZAP and Public Facilities committees)

Building Energy Performance standards

- #50-22 Commercial energy use reporting & reduction ordinance (BERDO) ***
March 21 COW: introduce, present phased plan, Stakeholder group to COuncil
- #128-22 Residential energy use reporting Ordinance (Energy Comm. to pilot software)***
- #84-22 Ordinance tying 1&2 DU size to building energy performance/ electrification ***
- #85-22 Ordinance to (1) include renovations and
(2) reduce compliance threshold re SP#5
- ***** 5.13.4 D. Reserved. Ordinance to regulate embodied carbon in new construction
- #51-22 Request for energy efficiency analysis for new construction
(ZAP and Public Facilities committees)

Clean Energy Standards

- #49-22 Zoning amendment to require % rooftop solar systems (like Watertown ord.)**
- #52-22 Ordinance amendment re EV charging stations on private property/ ads
- #83-22 Ordinance amendment re SP criteria to increase % EV stations required

Stormwater management (also see development standards)

- ***** Update placeholder, align with proposed engineering ordinance (NPDES)
(ZAP and Public Facilities)

Sustainability/ Environmental Amendments – Climate Action Plan (continued)

Landscaping

#54-22 Request for discussion on zoning to support native plants and pollinators

Economic Development ZO Amendments (work with EDC)

#40-22 Request for discussion relative to existing small businesses and new development
***** Requesting an ordinance to regulate “last mile” delivery services

Historic Preservation Ordinances

#53-22 Requesting an ordinance to require documenting existing conditions of
landmarked buildings prior to permitting

#57-22 Request for discussion relative to demolition of existing homes in Newton

Master Planning Projects

***** Ordinance to create a mechanism for a hospital zone, requiring a master plan

Development Standards/ Other

Stormwater related/ landforms/ site measuring rules

#55-22 Request discussion w/ Planning to revise grading, retaining wall ordinances

#56-22 Request for Ordinance requiring topographic data prior to ISD permitting

***** Updates to the sign ordinance (w/ UDC, Land Use)

***** Updates to the Fence Ordinance (w/ PF, DPW)

***** Updates to the lighting Ordinance (w/ UDC, Land Use)

#162-22 Discuss Substantive items Identified during recodification

#60-22 Community Preservation Committee Annual Update

- Items in red may require a working group and/or a separate committee working with the Sustainability Team to assess prior to defining a zoning approach.