



Zoning Redesign: Village Centers

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

September: Village center zoning engagement

- **Give input on proposed zoning changes for village centers** - City collecting input until October 16
- **Tonight, Thursday, September 8 at 6pm** - Public Info Session on village center zoning engagement
- **Tentative Agendas** for September ZAP Meetings



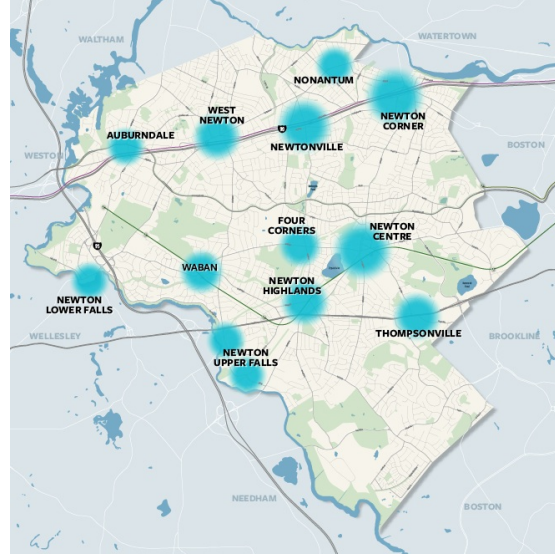
Image description: A sketch of a vibrant street with sections highlighted that represent what zoning rules impact. This includes storefronts, parking requirements, local businesses, transportation, housing diversity, public spaces, gathering spots, and sustainability.

Give input on proposed zoning changes for village centers

The City is collecting input on proposed updates for the village center zoning until October 16.

Zoning is important because it regulates how land in Newton can be developed and what kinds of new buildings are allowed. For example, zoning can influence store and business activity through parking and density requirements, whether green space or public spaces are required in new developments, or the amount of housing

supply near public transportation.



What is the city asking for input on? A set of proposed changes for the village center zoning, building upon the engagement takeaways from last summer. The Newton City Council's Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) have given City staff the green light to further refine and get community feedback. This includes the types of zoning districts for village centers, allowed heights and parking requirements.

How do community members give input? Conversations will be facilitated in three main ways listed below. All input is collected through the online feedback tool: <https://tinyurl.com/ZoningFeedbackTool>



(1) Library exhibit

Visit the Newton Free Library for the City's exhibit on the zoning proposals. It covers zoning history, each proposed zoning change, mapping and MBTA Communities, and how zoning changes are made in the city. It also has an engagement table for community members to sit at, discuss the exhibit, and submit their input through the feedback tool on their cell phone, personal laptop, or a library computer.

Location: Second floor, in Room C.

Hours: The exhibit is open at the same time as Newton Free Library's hours ([click here](#).)

City guidance in the exhibit: City staff will identify blocks of time that they will be on hand to answer questions and offer guidance in the exhibit. Please stay tuned for this schedule!

Can't go to the library exhibit? Visit it 'virtually': [Click here for the document version](#) of the library exhibit. It includes a suggested agenda for guided discussion if using as a group for an in-person or virtual convening.

Image descriptions

Top image: Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and Councilor Pam Wright absorb information in the exhibit section on design standards.

Middle image: In the background, a community





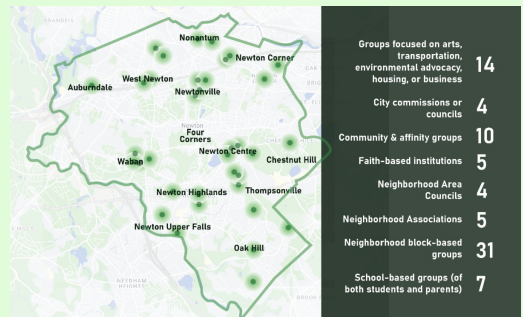
member explores the exhibit and stands in front of the section on proposed heights. In the forefront is the section on zoning history.

Bottom image: A community member marks on a large map of Newton where they live, work or study in Newton and which village centers they use, in the exhibit's introduction section.



(2) Equitable focus groups

The City is co-hosting focus groups with community members for the following communities: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), disability community, ages 15-24, ages 25-35, and renters. [Fill this interest form out](#), as days and times are finalized.



(3) Zoning Redesign Community Engagement Network

Over 80 community members joined the Network to develop their own community engagement plans and engage their community spaces. [Click here to see if your community space is engaged](#) - if so, reach out to the group to find out more!

Tonight at 6pm - Public Info Session on village center engagement

[Register here](#) for the virtual informational session on the village center engagement, from 6-7pm, on Thursday, September 8th. This will cover what the City is seeking input on and how to give feedback, visit the library exhibit, and engage one's neighbors. It will conclude with a Q+A.

This info session is not for gathering input; instead, it intends to inform community members on how to give their input (and encourages people to do so after the session!).

The recording will be available on the [village center website](#) afterwards.

Upcoming ZAP Meetings in September

Review August's meeting report at [ZAP's website](#). See the tentative agendas for September (these are not finalized and are subject to change):

Monday, September 12th, 2022 at 7pm

- #192-22 - Request for review and amendments to Section 6.7.1 (Public Hearing)
- #401-22 - Request for review and amendment to Section 5.11.5.E (Public Hearing)
- #399-22 - Appointment of Elizabeth Sweet to the Zoning Board of Appeals
- #436-22 - CPC Recommendation to appropriate \$1,948,056 in CPA funding
- #39-22 - Requesting discussion on state guidance for implementing the Housing Choice Bill
- #47-22 - Requesting annual updates on Newton's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI)
- #38-22 - Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance regarding village centers

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022 at 7pm (*Note change of time due to holiday)*

- Agenda still being determined, please check the ZAP website for updates



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