



# Zoning Redesign: Village Centers

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

## Village center zoning engagement: ~1.5 Weeks Left!

~1.5 Weeks left for you [to give input here](#) on proposed zoning changes for village centers (until October 17.) Opportunities to learn more and participate:

- **Click here to give input!**
- **Remaining focus groups** for [renters \(10.11\)](#), [disability community \(10.13\)](#), and [high schoolers + young adults \(10.17\)](#)
- **Remaining docent hours at the library**
- **Watch the NewTV's recording** about the village center zoning engagement, the library exhibit, and how to give your input!
- **Tentative Agendas** for October ZAP Meetings



## NewTV recording with ZAP Chair Crossley

NewTV visited the village center zoning library exhibit with Councilor Crossley, chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP). This 10-minute video reviews the village center zoning generally, the proposals in consideration, and how community members can give their input. [Watch it here!](#)

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**Remaining focus groups + docent hours in final week of engagement!**

**Focus groups:** The City is co-hosting focus groups with community members to ensure we hear from all voices of Newton:

- **Renters:** Tuesday, October 11, 6-7pm - Virtual event - [Register here](#)
- **Disability community:** Thursday, October 13, 3-4pm - Virtual event - [Register here](#)
- **High schoolers + young adults (ages 15-25):** Monday, October 17th\*, 7-8pm - Virtual event - [Register here](#) (\*rescheduled from the original October 4th)

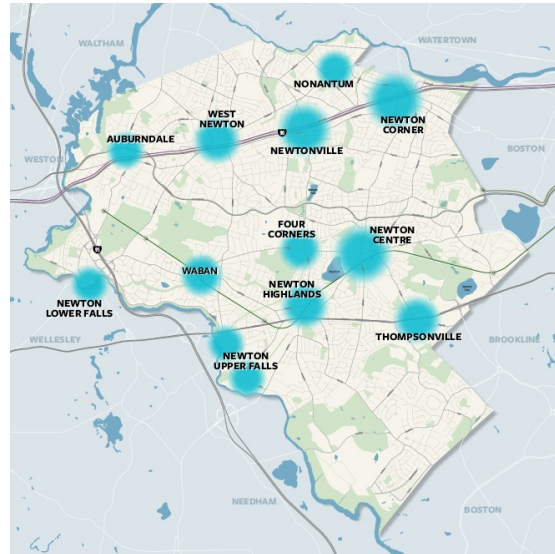
**Library docent hours:** The City is also available at the Newton Free Library exhibit to help guide your visit and assist you with the feedback tool. We will be there:

- **Wednesday, 10.12:** 9-11am
- **Thursday, 10.13:** 12-2pm & 5-7pm

## ~1.5 Weeks left for you [to 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.

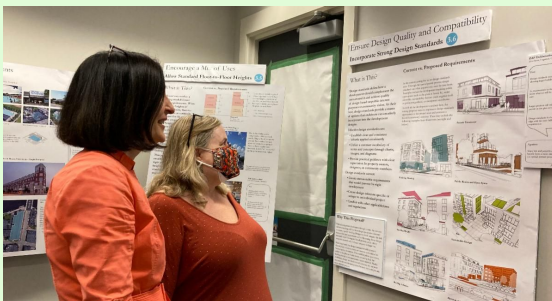
Zoning is important because it regulates how land in Newton can be developed and what kinds of new buildings are allowed. For example, zoning can influence ☐ store and business activity through ☐ parking and density requirements, whether ☐ green space or ☐ public spaces are required in new developments, 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?** Give input through the online feedback tool: <https://tinyurl.com/ZoningFeedbackTool>. (Click here for a PDF of the feedback tool, formatted for printing. Please note that this has lower visual quality than the online tool.)

In addition, conversations will be facilitated in 3 main ways listed below:



### (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](#).) See the hours that staff will be on-hand above.



**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.

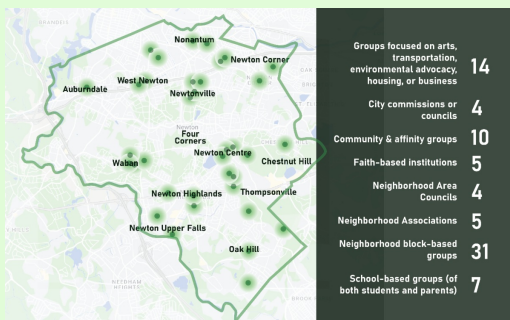
**Middle image:** In the background, a community member explores the exhibit and stands in front of the section on proposed heights. In the forefront is the section on zoning history.

**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) Host your own engagement session

Use these [suggested agendas and timing for 1 and 1.5 hour meetings](#) either at the library exhibit in-person or using [the online exhibit](#). Also see the equitable focus groups described above.



## (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!

## Upcoming ZAP Meetings in October

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

*Tuesday, October 11\*, 2022 at 7pm (\*Note change of time due to holiday)*

- #463-22 - Appointment of Amy Dain to the Planning & Development Board
- #464-22 - Appointment of Scott Friedman to the Newtonville Historical District Commission
- #38-22 - Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance regarding village centers
- #48-22 - Requesting an update on the status of implementing the Climate Action Plan
- #227-22 - Request for ordinance to regulate embodied carbon in new construction
- #458-22 - Reappointment of Dante Capasso to the Auburndale Historic District Commission
- Commission

- #459-22 - Reappointment of Philip Plottel to the Economic Development Commission
- #460-22 - Reappointment of Marcela Merino to the Economic Development Commission
- #461-22 - Reappointment of Kathryn Kubie to the Newton Historical Commission
- #462-22 - Reappointment of Paul Dudek to the Auburndale Historic District Commission
- #474=22 - Reappointment of William McLaughlin to the Zoning Board of Appeals

*Monday, October 24, 2022 at 7pm*

- #38-22 - Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance regarding village centers



Visit Zoning Redesign on the web

[Click here to find a link to or a PDF of this Newsletter \(under 'Monthly Newsletters'\)](#)

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