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Barney S. Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 31, 2020

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

FROM: Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development
Zachery LeMel, Chief of Long Range Planning
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: August 13, 2020

CC: City Council
Planning Board
John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services
Alissa O. Giuliani, City Solicitor
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

Zoning Redesign Website

The Planning Department is pleased to share the link to updated Zoning Redesign website here:

http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning_redesign/default.asp

These new webpages focus on providing the latest information on the Zoning Redesign effort since restarting at the beginning of 2020. At the new web pages, you will find upcoming events, latest drafts, frequently asked questions, an overview of the current process and current drafting status, and a detailed timeline of recent progress. The Planning Department will update these web pages throughout the process, so please check back regularly for the latest materials.

The updated website is broken down into four categories:

Home Page (link above)

The home page provides a general overview and introduction to the Zoning Redesign project in the form of an executive summary. In addition, there is a box at the top of the page with links to the most recent updates, information on the next event and how to attend (ZAP meeting, office hours, etc.), and a link to sign-up for regular emails. This area of the home page will provide a single point where anyone can easily access the most up-to-date information on Zoning Redesign and where the City is in the process.

Current Drafting Status

http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning_redesign/current/default.asp

The Current Drafting Status pages are split into two categories. First, the Current Drafting Status main page explains the Zoning Redesign process guiding these latest efforts, which began in 2020, and are set to continue through the end of the City Council term in 2021. This process was originally presented and discussed at ZAP at the February 10, 2020 meeting (see [2/10/20 ZAP Memo](#)).

Second, the Current Drafting Status pages are broken down into individual pages for each Article of the draft Zoning Ordinance. This is because the established workflow revolves around an Article-by-Article review. The Current Drafting Status page for each article is formatted around a general summary for that Article that explains its intent and purpose, basic content, and functionality. The latest draft zoning language for each Article will be found on these pages. In addition, each individual Article page has a timeline that starts from when ZAP begins to take up discussion on that Article until ZAP holds a straw vote memorializing its support for the draft zoning language of that given Article. This process timeline will summarize all meeting and events where that specific Article was discussed, including ZAP, public office hours, architect/building focus groups, Planning and Development Board, Neighborhood Area Councils, etc. Links to relevant documents, meeting notes, recordings, and presentations, will also be shared for those looking to dive deeper into the material. Overall, the timeline should allow anyone to understand how and why each Article evolved as it did along this process of review. The link for the Current Drafting Status page of Article 3 can be found here:

http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning_redesign/current/article_3.asp

FAQ (http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning_redesign/faq.asp)

The frequently asked questions (FAQ) page provides answers to questions that have arisen over the years and will help anyone build a solid foundation for understanding the City's Zoning Redesign efforts. These questions and answers range from general information about zoning, to the Newton specific process, to how the draft Zoning Ordinance specifically addresses the City's housing, environment, and economic goals. This page will be regularly updated by city staff, as necessary.

Past Work (http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/zoning_redesign/past_work/default.asp)

Zoning Redesign has been a priority for nearly a decade, beginning with the 2011 Zoning Reform Group Report. The extensive amount of work completed between 2011 and 2019 shapes the work today and can all be found on the Past Work page.

Looking Ahead

Newton's I.T. Department is currently migrating all the City of Newton webpages over to a new platform. The Planning Department will work with I.T. to ensure these new webpages migrate as designed and make necessary revisions to maintain the clearest, most user-friendly, format. City staff will look to utilize new tools that can assist with transparency and community engagement/input for the Zoning Redesign project.