



Zoning & Planning Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, February 6, 2023

Present: Councilors Crossley (Chair), Albright, Danberg, Wright, Leary, Baker, Krintzman, and Ryan

Also Present: Councilors Humphrey, Norton, and Lipof

City Staff: Barney Heath, Director of Planning; Jennifer Caira, Deputy Director of Planning; John Sisson, Economic Development Director; and Jaclyn Norton, Committee Clerk

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: [02-06-23 Zoning & Planning Committee Meeting](#)

#32-23 **Request for amendment to Sections 5.1.4, 6.4.29, and 7.8.2**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting amendments to Sections 5.1.4, 6.4.29, and 7.8.2 to make on-street dining permanent.
Action: **Zoning & Planning Held 8-0; Public Hearing Set for 02/13/23**

Note: The chair introduced Barney Heath, Director of Planning, and John Sisson, Economic Development Director to describe the proposed zoning amendments, stating that the purpose of this meeting is primarily to set the required public hearing. She stressed that time is of the essence in order to enable our restaurants to have outdoor dining before the state waiver expires at the end of March.

Director Heath noted that this zoning amendment facilitates discussions in the Public Safety & Transportation Committee regarding authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works, Director of Planning, and Police Chief to designate outdoor dining spaces. This is consistent with the practice of the last few years. Mr. Sisson followed explaining that the proposed amendments, which allow outdoor seating without counting the spaces in calculating required on-site parking spaces, would treat parking space café seating in a similar manner to sidewalk café seating.

One Councilor proposed removing all parking minimums for restaurants in Section 5.1.4. Director Heath noted that this is part of the work on village center zoning redesign efforts and committee discussions will focus on parking requirements before the release of version 2.0 in March. Multiple Councilors stated a desire to discuss parking minimums at a later date to not deter from the proposed amendments.

Committee members voted 8-0 on motions to hold and set the public hearing for Monday, February 13, 2023, both from Councilor Krintzman.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah J. Crossley, Chair