

From: Kathleen Hobson
Subject: Zoning Redesign—Onward!
Date: March 3, 2021 at 4:39 PM
To: Newton City Council
Cc: Ruthanne Fuller rfuller@newtonma.gov, Peter Doeringer P&D Board, Lizbeth Heyer NHP, Zachery LeMel zlemel@newtonma.gov, Jennifer Caira jcaira@newtonma.gov, Barney Heath bheath@newtonma.gov

Dear Zoning and Planning Committee members,

We're glad you took those two straw votes at your Feb. 22 meeting. By affirming...

1. 6 to 2, the need for comprehensive zoning reform, as opposed to piecemeal change, and
2. 8 to 0, a preference for "keeping all tools in the toolbox," and not prematurely setting any one of them aside

... you have laid these basic questions to rest, and can now turn to the broad, more complex and interesting discussion we've been waiting for: how to zone the areas throughout the city within walking distance of village centers, commercial corridors, and transit hubs. These areas offer the greatest opportunity for creating both moderately-priced and deed-restricted affordable homes, increasing our racial and income diversity, reducing car use, improving our overall energy efficiency, and revitalizing local commerce.

We look forward to a discussion that is continually informed by the three goals you established last April: increasing the supply and variety of housing across the city; economic and environmental sustainability; and development that is contextually respectful. By regularly tying a given issue to one or more of these goals, you will make it easier for the Newton public to follow along, attract the broadest possible coalition of support for your efforts, and keep everyone's eyes focused on the prize: a city that is truly welcoming and sustainable.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hobson, Alice Ingerson, Lisa Monahan, Kathy Pillsbury, Doris Ann Sweet, Jay Walter
Engine 6 Zoning Redesign Working Group

Fran Godine, Lynn Weissberg, Nancy Zollers
Engine 6 Leadership Team