

**From:** Kathleen Hobson  
**Subject:** Zoning Redesign—Reframing the discussion  
**Date:** May 15, 2020 at 5:30 PM  
**To:** Deborah Crossley [dcrossley@newtonma.gov](mailto:dcrossley@newtonma.gov), Victoria Danberg [vdanberg@newtonma.gov](mailto:vdanberg@newtonma.gov), Zachery LeMel [zlemel@newtonma.gov](mailto:zlemel@newtonma.gov), Barney Heath [bheath@newtonma.gov](mailto:bheath@newtonma.gov)  
**Cc:** Ruthanne Fuller [rfuller@newtonma.gov](mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov), Nathan Giacalone [ngiacalone@newtonma.gov](mailto:ngiacalone@newtonma.gov)

---

**Dear ZAP Committee members,**

**We applaud you for the unanimous straw vote** taken at the April 27 meeting regarding the goals of Zoning Redesign:

- More housing, and more housing choices, throughout the city
- Environmentally and economically sustainable community development
- Contextual design—revitalizing the parts of our historic fabric worth preserving

**It would be great** if you could use these goals explicitly to frame your discussions from now on. This will make it easier for the Newton public to follow along, as the articles and presentation topics shift, and keep everyone's eyes focused on the prize: creating [The City We Need](#).

**A note on history and context:** We see Zoning Redesign as a chance to re-integrate the different parts of our city, developed for various reasons at different times—often before the advent of zoning, in 1922—and to create a new, more equitable context for living, one that does not erase our history but rather adapts it to new uses.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hobson  
on behalf of the Engine 6 Zoning Redesign Group  
(Alice Ingerson, Lisa Monahan, Kathy Pillsbury, Sean Roche, Doris Ann Sweet, Jay Walter)

[\["The City We Need," NY Times editorial, published online 5/11/20\]](#)