

# Keep It Positive!

**Responding to anti-zoning reform negativity: ideas and language to help the tongue-tied.**

Want to respond to a bad actor on Next Door Digest? Wish you were comfortable participating in a town hall but just not sure what to say? Frustrated at the negative letters in the TAB but not sure what to write? Here are some ideas – and some information - to get you in the ‘zone.’

## **EASY-PEASEY: *Stand up for positivity!***

- **THROW SOME FACTS OUT THERE:**

From the Engine 6 Website: <https://www.enginesix.org/newtonhousingfacts>

- **KINDNESS TINGED WITH SHAME:**

*Zoning reform is a good thing! This is our chance to address issues around tear-downs, mega-properties, and lack of diversity in our community. If we don't enact reforms, things will just continue the same way.*

*Your comment isn't very helpful. Let's talk about what we want to achieve with zoning reform. I want <insert the change you want to see i.e. housing prices to stabilize so my kids might have a chance of raising a family here>.*

*In Newton we pride ourselves on our schools and our educated residents. Let's use our brains to enact positive reform that will move Newton forward.*

*If you are unhappy about what is going on in Newton now, how could you be against zoning reform? Let's work together to make positive reform that will solve problems.*

*The last four years has provided us with enough fear mongering and conspiracy theories to last a life time. Let's keep things positive.*

*You seem to be upset about the way things are going. Why not work towards positive change in zoning laws to address your concerns? Sign up for the City's Zoning Design newsletter here to learn more*

## **A LITTLE MORE EFFORT: *Context to help you feel confident.***

If you have 20 minutes, you can't do better than this [6-page document from Engine 6](#).

## **DIVE INTO THE DEEP END: *You're smart, you can handle it.***

[Engine 6 Website](#) has a LOT of info. Pace yourself.

[The Zoning and Planning Committee has their own website.](#)

The City also has pages for the [Zoning Redesign](#) efforts for the City of Newton and the [Zoning Redesign Community Engagement](#) process. Sign up for their newsletter if you haven't already!