

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

Working Group Meeting						
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019						
Date: Newton City Hall - Room 204						
Time: 9:30 AM						
Attendees:						
Alex Valcarce	Working Group	Y	Linda Walsh	Working Group	---	
Amanda Berman	Working Group	---	Maureen Lemieux	Working Group	---	
Barney Heath	Working Group	Y	Nancy Scammon	Working Group	Y	
Bea Goldsmith	Working Group	Y	Norm Meltz	Working Group	Y	
Bob DeRubeis	Working Group	Y	Rachel Sherman	Working Group	---	
Brooke Lipsitt	Working Group	Y	Richard Rasala	Working Group	Y	
Carol Schein	Working Group	Y	Sandra Butzel	Working Group	---	
Cheryl Lappin	Working Group	---	Seth Bai	Working Group	---	
Deb Youngblood	Working Group	---	Sue Rasala	Working Group	Y	
Jack Neville	Working Group	---	Susan Albright	Working Group	Y	
Jayne Colino	Working Group	Y	Thomas Rooney	Working Group	---	
Jini Fairley	Working Group	Y	Tom Murphy	NV5	---	
John Rice	Working Group	---	Melissa Gagnon	NV5	Y	
Jonathan Yeo	Working Group	---	Joel Bargmann	BH+A	---	
Josh Morse	Working Group	Y	James Bruneau	BH+A	Y	

Josh Morse opened up the meeting at 9:30AM.

Per the Director of the Planning Department, Barney Heath, the Department will be more actively involved as sites such as the Newton Centre Traingle are proposed and evaluated for NewCAL. Two new members to the Department were in introduced: Zachery LeMel and Gabriel Holbrow. Newton Public Buildings provided a project overview, in terms of work accomplished over the past year and a half. The Albemarle site has been tabled, while other sites including the Newton Centre Triangle, as well as private non-City owned sites, are being evaluated.

BH+A presented conceptual diagrams for the Newton Centre Triangle site for the primary purpose of sparking discussion. All options presented include only NewCAL programming with green space.

1. Majority of parking below grade (169 spaces) with some at grade parking (mostly HCP), with a pedestrian connection through the site. Entry, drop off and exit via Beacon Street. Massing would be centralized, with added green space along the Newton Centre Green as well as at the intersection of Langley and Beacon. The gym would be the tallest element, sited along Langley Road.
2. Variation of the above concept, with no connection through the site. Entry, drop off and exit via Beacon Street.
3. Variation of above concepts, with vehicular cut through, allowing access and egress from both Langley to Beacon. Increased surface parking. Gym would be along Beacon Street.
4. NewCAL would be along the Newton Centre Green rather than in the center of the site. 77 parking spaces, all at grade. Options for additional parking in Newton Centre to be evaluated. 45 spaces dedicated to NewCAL, 32 spaces would be available for general use.

Parking options:

- Create a below grade parking structure, which would be approx. \$8M-\$10M over budget
- Create a sufficient amount of surface parking on existing hardscape

Possible locations for angled parking was discussed, as a means to increase the number of parking spaces (Lyman, Centre, Langley, Beacon, along Newton Centre Green) as well as a parking structure at Pelham and Pleasant Street lots.

A time line will need to be developed as businesses and residents are considered. The City will further evaluate and determine the viability of a vision plan for Newton Centre. A parking plan will need to be done to show that sufficient parking can be accommodated so that NewCAL is not detrimental to businesses.

Accessibility will be an issue, for seniors, especially in the winter months.

Alternate locations in Newton Centre will be evaluated along with the Triangle site.

It would be helpful for the Council on Aging to vote in support of a central facility rather a decentralized model.

Joan Belle Isle is running a monthly “Let’s Talk NewCAL” group at the Senior Center.

More Newton residents and community members need to be engaged in NewCAL meetings.