

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	Y	Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---
Amanda Berman	<i>Planning Department</i>	---	Nancy Scammon	<i>Parks & Rec Dept.</i>	Y
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Department</i>	---	Norm Meltz	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	---
Nicole Banks	<i>Parks & Rec Dept.</i>	---	Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	---
Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Devra Bailin	<i>Planning Department</i>	Y	Sue Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---	Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	Y
Gabriel Holbrow	<i>Planning Department</i>	---	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	---
Jack Neville	<i>Parks & Rec Dept.</i>	Y	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning Department</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Director</i>	Y			
Jini Fairley	<i>Working Group</i>	Y	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	Y
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	---	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	Y
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	Y	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	Y
Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health Dept.</i>	---			

Josh Morse opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:30AM. The purpose of today's meeting is to review the presentation in preparation for the Community meeting this Thursday, May 21.

The cover page should note the presentation is by the NewCAL Working Group.

The presentation is formatted to be printed as a stand-alone booklet. There was consensus that there should be two versions of the presentation: One with text for printing and online viewing and one for the Community meeting, to be presented by BH+A.

Newtonville site

There are 13 spaces in the existing Senior Center parking lot. The three options for the Newtonville site show a range of 27-34 parking spaces, all within 125' of an entrance.

The possibility of a 4-story option could be accommodated while retaining the existing building. If parking was not expanded beyond the current 13 spaces, 1st floor programming could be expanded. There was a consensus not to consider leaving only 13 spaces and adding a 4th floor.

The intent is to create a barrier free entry way at the existing building.

Newton Centre Triangle site

Option #1 includes 92 parking spaces in the triangle. As the building becomes more vertical, or is lifted, the quantity of parking spaces increases to 127-130.

In Option #2 and #3, for rendering purposes, windows shall be added to the administration block facing Beacon Street.

Each of the two sites have been studied at a high level. Once options are narrowed, a traffic study will be done.

The intent is to create a barrier free entryway at the existing building.

Meeting Logistics

Participants will be able to submit questions during the meeting via the chat or raise hand features on Zoom or by email to newcal@newtonma.gov. Post recording, the presentation will be posted to the project website and questions/comments can be submitted.

NV5 will link the presentation to the home page prior to the meeting.

Comments received at the last Community meeting in February will be noted, with regard to opportunities and challenges at the two sites.

BH+A shall add summary pages at the end of the presentation with thumbnail site plans and aerial views for each of the options at the two sites.

Upcoming Community Meeting and Next Steps

The plan is for the Working Group to meet on 5/26 following the 5/21 Community meeting to debrief. A presentation to the Council on Aging will happen within the coming weeks. Additional meetings to be scheduled include an update to the Business community, City ward councilors as well as to the City Council Public Facilities and Program and Services committees. There will also need to be an informative review with the Newton Historic Commission. Another Community meeting will likely be scheduled for some time in July.

Given the current financial situation due to Covid-19, the project timetable may be unclear. The team should be ready and use the time now to educate the community including the various committees.

Additional Upcoming Meetings

All upcoming meetings will be online with remote participation via Zoom:

- 05/21/20 Community meeting 6:00PM
- 05/26/20 Working Group meeting 9:30AM