


## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
<b>Attendees:</b>					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Devra Bailin	<i>Planning</i>	√
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	---
Norm Meltz	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---
Jack Neville	<i>P&amp;R Commission</i>	---	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	---
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings</i>	---
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	---
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	√	Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---
Nicole Banks	<i>P&amp;R Commissioner</i>	---			
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	√			
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	---			
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	---			
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---	<b>Consultants</b>		
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	√	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&amp;R Department</i>	√	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	√
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	√	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	√	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	√

Josh Morse opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:34AM. The goal of today's meeting was to review the draft presentation for the upcoming Design Review Committee (DRC) meeting scheduled on August 26. The concept for this meeting is to help the DRC understand the progress made to date including program, site challenges, thought process and next steps. It was decided to present the preliminary test fits for each of the six site options.

An important take away message is that residents, as well as the Parks & Rec Commission, stated there could be no buildings on park land and although P&R would have permitted the Albemarle site, there was strong resident opposition.

With regard to the presentation, it was decided that Newton Centre will be shown before Newtonville, as it makes sense to show options which have been eliminated before focusing on the recommended option. For the Newtonville site, a site plan, floor plans and renderings will be presented for each of the three options. For Newton Centre, site plans and rendering will be sufficient.

For development in Newton Centre, a village plan is required similar to what was done for Needham and Washington streets.

The slide with Site Option Statistics will remain in the presentation.

Under the City of Newton ordinance, the DRC is charged with making a formal recommendation for Site Plan Approval.

It was discussed that a slide should be added which states why Newton Centre was not selected as the recommended site. Also, a slide should be added, after the cover slide, with a brief project update stating Newtonville was selected as the recommended site.

Design options should be relabeled from numbered options to “Add/Reno 3 stories, New Construction 3 stories and New Construction 4 stories.”

After two years, the site selection process led the project to the existing site.

### Next Steps

Update meeting with the Design Review Committee (DRC) on 8/26/20.

An application is in progress to be filed with Newton Historic Commission (NHC), by 9/9 with a meeting on 09/24/20. As part of the application, the draft “NewCAL Position Statement” letter which was distributed to the Working Group for review, will need to be finalized. Included in this letter are facts that the existing building is approximately 10,000SF and proposed program is over three times as large, at 33,000SF.

It was noted that the existing Senior Center is within the Newtonville Historic district. Katy Holmes (Newton Planning Dept) will need to be consulted.

The NewCAL Vision Statement supports a single centralized location which creates a sense of community, and does not support a village model.

It was discussed that if in the event the decision is made to preserve the existing building, onsite parking should be minimized with possibly a variance for staff only. Essentially, NewCAL could then be constructed behind the existing Senior Center with the needed program SF. It was also noted that it is not realistic for the existing Walnut Street entry to be made accessible.

As noted previously, an updated presentation will be made to the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees in September.

### Additional Upcoming Meetings

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

- 08/26/20            DRC update meeting            6:00PM
- 09/01/20            Working Group meeting        9:30AM
- 09/24/20            NHC meeting                      time TBD

Alex Valcarce shall provide Melissa G with updated meeting information as it becomes available.

NV5 shall send out notices to the WG of any additional upcoming meetings relative to this project.