Think Globally, Act Locally: Zoning for a Sustainable Newton  
September 27th, 2017 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street

Zoning Redesign will help us achieve Newton’s environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals.

Zoning can help ensure clean water, responsible energy use, and the quality of our environment.

Zoning as it relates to environmental sustainability, addresses a wide range of issues from parking and development density, to the location of commercial growth areas and protection of open space. All of these issues will be addressed over the course of the Zoning Redesign event series. We will start this discussion focusing on three issues for the new zoning ordinance:

1. **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**
   Rain water running off of roofs and pavement is called stormwater. Stormwater picks up pollutants as it moves, carrying them to our wetlands, streams, and the Charles River. In severe weather events, flooding of properties and the City's infrastructure can occur. Zoning can regulate how new construction must deal with stormwater to prevent flooding and mitigate water pollution. The proposed ordinance will provide clear guidance on addressing these issues through infiltration and water quality performance standards.

2. **GREEN DESIGN INCENTIVES**
   Sustainable construction practices including energy and water efficiency, sustainably sourced building materials, and waste management are becoming commonplace and more sophisticated. The Zoning Redesign project is proposing to establish minimum green building requirements with incentives for higher levels of performance based on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards as a guide.

3. **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**
   Many of the now conventional energy efficiency and alternative energy solutions run up against the dimensional requirements in Newton's current zoning. Such barriers are detrimental to Newton’s sustainability goals and Zoning Redesign is an opportunity to explicitly support such things as solar panels, small wind generators, additional insulation, and other sustainable energy practices.

Wheelchair accessible location. For ADA accommodations, contact Jini Fairley at least two business days in advance; jfairley@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1253. For City’s TTY/TDD: 617-796-1089. For TRS, dial 711.
Zoning is our opportunity to shape the future of Newton

What is Zoning Redesign?
The City is working to make a new zoning ordinance that is effective, responsive, predictable, and fair. Newton’s current zoning does not reflect the existing context—95% of properties are inconsistent with current zoning. The new zoning will incorporate community input, data-driven analysis, and best practices in order to adequately protect neighborhoods and prepare the city for long-term growth.

With this project, the City will be rewriting the Zoning Ordinance to more closely respond to the Comprehensive Plan, to better respect the current built environment of the city, and to reflect the values of Newton’s residents and businesses.

The City Council’s zoning reform efforts began in 2011. Phase One was completed in 2015. It successfully reorganized the existing ordinance making it easier to understand, but Phase One did not alter the content.

Now in Phase Two, Zoning Redesign is a project to update the ordinance’s content with a “context-based” approach. The first step was to catalogue and analyze the patterns of Newton’s built environment in the “Pattern Book” and gather initial ideas. The next step is to engage the public in developing new and revised zoning content. After this, we will be developing a draft based on the Pattern Book and the community conversations from this event series.