Zoning identifies the process by which a new building, addition, or change of use is reviewed and a decision made.

Residents and businesses want land use and development review processes that clearly identify the City’s expectations, that lay out the steps to be followed and guide an applicant towards the desired outcome in the shortest amount of time possible. Property owners often say a quick no can be better than a long yes.

In many respects, the community at large wants the same thing. Neighbors want to understand what can or cannot be done on the property near them; in addition, neighbors want a meaningful opportunity to share their ideas and concerns.

Creating review processes that can address these interests is a challenge and requires that we think through a range of approaches more tailored to the different types of decisions the City must make.

Zoning Redesign offers an opportunity to provide clear regulations and procedures that result in predictable, efficient, and coordinated review processes.

Join us on April 12th as we discuss ways to tailor the process such as:

- Creating a hierarchy of review and decision-making bodies tailored to the nature of the request
- Incorporating design review
- Creating a master plan process for educational campuses
- Establishing a clear process and criteria for Special Permit amendments and consistency rulings

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.