

Dear Counselor Crossley and members of the ZAP Committee & City Council:

After several months of almost no engagement with your Committee, we are pleased to have this opportunity to present our collective review and recommendations regarding the Residential Parking and Garage sections of Newton's Zoning Ordinance.

We are each longtime residents of various villages, and our Professional work is here with a diversity of Newton homeowners at various locations and financial means. Therefore, we are intimately aware of the purposes, content, and effects of the Zoning Ordinance in the real world of our Clients and our Community.

After sampling locations throughout the city, and with subsequent review and discourse (-such as it is under COVID era constraints), we believe this portion can be appropriately and efficiently modified in accordance with the current zoning ordinance.

We are here to support and encourage you to do so.

It is clear that even this small portion of the Ordinance deserves more thoughtful consideration and detailed evaluations to properly set the standards appropriate to each zoning district and various lot conditions.

However, we must also note that the question becomes much more complicated under the proposed re-write or re-zoning of the entire City now being pursued by your Committee. Under that scenario we find the Committee's methods are confused and the timeline is entirely inadequate and inappropriate.

Your Committee and the Council received our letter of September 30, in advance of your last meeting. Therein we provided a comprehensive overview of our concerns, which are shared by a growing number of professionals and Citizens in our city as they become more aware of ZAP's agenda and proposals. We received no particular acknowledgment of that letter. Nor was it -or any related meeting discussion- even mentioned in the publicly posted meeting notes.

Therefore, we must here again express our discomfort at the pace, purpose, and conduct of the process as managed by your Committee, and expedited by the Planning Department. These efforts are also occurring at an extraordinarily difficult time for us and our Community to fully comprehend and wisely participate.

Never-the-less,

We remain committed to helping our City and Community adapt, change, and improve in many respects under a careful, creative, and inclusive process. -whenever that opportunity is truly, fully, available.

Thank you

So... Let us take a look at a few images of why we are all here...