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Amy Sangiolo's Newton Community Update (06/01/20)

1 message

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Good Morning Newton Residents,

I hope you and your families are well.

This week, the number of COVID-19 cases in Newton has increased to 749 as of May 28th and the number of reported deaths has risen to 107. While Newton's numbers are going down (see [Jack Prior's analysis](#)), we know that COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on our vulnerable populations. Here in Newton, it is our senior care facilities that have been hit hard - see the State's [Weekly Public Health Report](#).

Outside of our bubble, communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by the virus. Now, as I write this, protests are erupting throughout the nation, as we grieve and mourn the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and face the racial disparities, injustices, and flat out racism, that confront our black and brown communities. In a time when we are advised to stay-at-home to be safe from the pandemic, racial injustice has forced us out of our homes and into the streets to demand justice. As we move forward, remember to protest safely, learn more about these issues, and support these targeted communities.

And now, here is this week's Newton Community and Local Government Update:

- [What's Up in Newton this Week? COVID-19 cases continue to rise; Newton Police and Residents respond to racism and death of George Floyd, Council invites Former School Committee Chair, Matt Hills to discuss the state of current school finances, and more....](#)
- [Congratulations to Newton North and Newton South – Class of 2020](#)
- [Budget Information](#)
- [City Council Committee Meetings – Week of May 31st](#)

- [City Board and Commission Meetings – Week of May 31st](#)
- [Newton SEPAC to Meet this week](#)
- [Development Review Team Meetings – Week of May 31st](#)

Kindly forward this on to your friends, family, and anyone you think might be interested. If someone forwarded this to you, you may [click here to subscribe](#). You can find all previous issues at amysangiolo.com.

We will get through this if we all work together and care for each other now and always.

Please Stay Safe, Stay at Home, Wear a Mask, take care of yourselves and your loved ones, be happy, and be kind

With warm regards,
Amy Mah Sangiolo

What's Up in Newton this Week? COVID-19 cases continue to rise; Newton Police and Residents respond to racism and death of George Floyd, Council invites Former School Committee Chair, Matt Hills to discuss the state of current school finances, and more....

COVID-19: The number of confirmed cases in Newton continue to rise – slowly, but still rising. The current case number is 749 and the total number of deaths has risen to 107. While nursing home and elder care confirmed case numbers and deaths are available from the state, the City has not published that data to date, on its website. That data can be found [here](#).

Re-opening in Newton continues: Last week, I reported that Newton was slowly beginning to open – with the opening of Newton Parks and Recreation Tennis Courts and the Recycling Center (by appointment only beginning on June 2nd). City Hall will begin opening up to the public by appointment only beginning on Monday, June 15th with full opening scheduled for Monday, July 6th with physical distancing and face coverings required.

Congratulations to Newton North and Newton South Seniors: If you have been out and about in your neighborhood, you may have seen signs all across the City celebrating the senior classes of Newton North and Newton South on their graduation!

Newton Responds to the Death of George Floyd and racism:

The Newton Police Department took to Twitter regarding the actions of Minneapolis police involved in the death of George Floyd: " Chief David MacDonald and the Newton Police Department condemn the unacceptable actions of Minneapolis police officers that led to the death of Mr. George Floyd. Our heartfelt condolences go to his family and friends."

Newton North 9th grader, Andrew Riebe responds with this moving [poem](#).

Newton community gathers for a socially distant vigil outside of City Hall yesterday.



City Council continues FY2021 Budget Review: This week, the City Council will continue its review of the FY2021 Budget – where the Finance Committee will review the budgets of the [Comptroller](#), [Treasury](#), [Human Resources](#), and [Financial Information Systems](#) Departments. See Finance Committee agenda [here](#).

City Council invites a special guest to discuss NPS finances: The City Council is holding a special, informal, virtual meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd at 4:00 p.m. To view this meeting use this link at the above date and time: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86583074356> . According to the [agenda](#), " The City Council will meet informally on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm to hear former School Committee member Matt Hills' assessment of the Newton Public Schools finances."

Weekly Construction Schedule: This week's construction schedule can be found [here](#).

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Congratulations to Newton North and Newton South – Class of 2020



Neighbor, Sebastian Pike, graduating senior, Newton South High School – Class of 2020



In case you missed it, signs were and are up celebrating the Class of 2020! It's been a tough year for all, but wishing the Class of 2020 all the best!!

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Budget Information

On Monday, May 11th, the Mayor presented the FY2021 Municipal Budget. Here are the links to all relevant documents to reference as the Council continues its review of the FY2021 Municipal Budget

[FY2021 Municipal Budget](#)

[Comptroller's Budget Analysis](#)

[FY2021 – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan](#)

[FY2021-2025 Supplement Capital Improvement Plan](#)

[FY2021 School Committee Approved Budget](#)

[Letter from Liam Hurley regarding reductions in FY2021 School Budget](#)

[FY2021 Water/Sewer Rates Presentation](#)

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City Council Committee Meetings – Week of May 31st

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will meet virtually on Monday, June 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

To view this meeting use this link at the above date and time:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/940798849>

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 940 798 849

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Request to repurpose and transfer \$100,000 originally set aside for a Police Incident Command Vehicle for new police cruisers
- Request to repurpose and transfer \$400,000 originally set aside for 25% Design for Washington Street to the DPW Roads Program to repair the roadway section of Washington Street between Chestnut and Walnut
- Request to transfer \$30,000 from FY2020 Current Year Budget Reserve to fund Phase 3 of the Citywide Accessible Pedestrian Signal Installation Project
- Request authorization to accept and expend an \$80,000 MassDOT's Workforce Transportation Program grant with \$20,000 in match funding to expand the Bluebike's system
- Request to accept 6 bike share stations worth approximately \$224,257 in conjunction with the expansion of the Bluebikes system
- Submittal of the FY2021 Municipal/School Operating Budget
- Submittal of the FY2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan
- Submittal of the FY2021-2025 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan

Please note: The Committee will conduct budget review of the following Department:

- Comptroller
- Treasury
- Human Resources
- Financial Information Systems

Zoning and Planning Committee: The Zoning and Planning Committee will meet virtually on Monday, June 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

To view this meeting, use this link at the above date and time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85986952549>.

To listen to the meeting via phone dial 1-646-558-8656 and use the Meeting ID 887 859 8695 2549.

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Request for review, discussion, and direction relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance
- Request for review of the zoning requirements for single-family attached dwelling units
- Request to amend the City Zoning Ordinances to eliminate mandated parking minimums to improve vitality of local businesses, reduce the cost of housing, and support the climate action goals.

NOTE: Although the agenda doesn't explicit state, the Zoning and Planning Committee is scheduled to meet jointly with the Planning and Development Board. See Planning and Development Board [agenda](#).

Land Use Committee: The Land Use Committee will meet virtually on Tuesday, June 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83554151670> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 835 5415 1670

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Request for a Special Permit/Site Plan Approval to convert space on the third floor of the existing two-family structure to allow an interior accessory apartment exceeding 1,000 sq. ft. at [169 Hunnewell Avenue](#)
- Request to amend a Special Permit/Site Plan Approval to allow a change in the floor plans to rearrange the space within the building at [17-31 and 39 Herrick Road](#)
- Request to rezone land and request for a Special Permit/Site Plan Approval for the Riverside MBTA mixed-use development at **355 and 399 Grove Street** – NOTE: The discussion will focus on Transportation. – See [Planning Memo](#)

Special City Council Informal Meeting: The City Council will hold a special information meeting virtually on Wednesday, June 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

To view this meeting use this link at the above date and time:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86583074356>

One tap mobile +16465588656,,86583074356# Land line +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 865 8307 4356

The purpose of the meeting is to hear from Former School Committee Chair, Matt Hills' assessment of the Newton Public Schools finances. The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Assessment of NPS finances for FY21 and beyond.
- Possible State education funding issues and impact for Newton.
- Questions and Discussion.

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City Board and Commission Meetings – Week of May 31st

Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission: The Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission will hold an **in-person site visit** on Monday, June 1st at 11:00 a.m. at **521 Hammond Street**. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. The purpose of the visit is to review the proposed driveway, turnaround, and parking area. The agenda can be found [here](#). Packet documents can be found [here](#).

Planning and Development Board: The Planning and Development Board will meet virtually and jointly with the Zoning and Planning Committee on Monday, June 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your computer at the above date and time, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85986952549>. Or you can visit www.zoom.us, click “Join a Meeting” and enter the following Meeting ID: 859 8695 2549.

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your smartphone, download the “ZOOM Cloud Meetings” app in any app store or visit www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on “Join a Meeting” and enter the following Meeting ID: 859 8695 2549.

For audio only, call (646) 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 859 8695 2549 followed by #. One-tap link for audio only: +6465588656,,85986952549#

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Staff presentation regarding proposals to address building components (porches, dormers, side additions, etc.) on residential buildings under Article 3 Residence Districts
- Joint Workshop with the Zoning and Planning Committee regarding the above
- Upcoming Meetings

Newton Library Board of Trustees – Finance Committee: The Finance Committee of the Library Board of Trustees will meet virtually on Tuesday, June 2nd, at 4:00 p.m.

To join the Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86241439449?pwd=dExINGpYRFFjaldGR0YzZXNhWjVYUT09>

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Approval of May 13th Minutes
- Plan for consolidating investments into fewer balanced funds

- Cash needs for the year/investing extra cash

Election Commission: The Election Commission will meet virtually on Wednesday, June 3rd at 3:00 p.m.

To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86982490892>

One tap mobile:16465588656,,86982490892# US (New York) Dial in:646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 86982490892

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Updates on the September and November 2020 elections
- Other Business

Fair Housing Committee: The Fair Housing Committee will meet virtually on Wednesday, June 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

To join the meeting by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/8429428454>

You may also join the meeting from your smartphone by dialing 1(312) 626-6799 and entering 8429428454#. For audio only, call (253) 215-8782 and enter Meeting ID: 842 942 8454.

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#)
- AI
- Riverside
- Fair Housing Website
- Review and Approval of Minutes

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet virtually on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your computer, at the above date and time, go to www.zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" and enter the following Meeting ID: 871 7881 3611. Alternatively, the direct Zoom link to the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87178813611>.

To dial into the meeting via telephone, call in by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and use the Meeting ID: 871 7881 3611.

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Public Hearing on a Request to Change the details of a previously approved Comprehensive Permit for a project located at **83-127 and 106-128 John F. Kennedy Circle** consisting of 55 affordable housing units. The new proposal is

to create the project site out of the existing Jackson Gardens property rather than a subdivision and conveyance.

- Public Hearing on request for the issuance of a Comprehensive Permit pursuant to Chapter 40B to construct a 204 unit residential development consisting of 51 affordable housing units and approximately 22,382 square feet of commercial, office, and retail space at [15 Riverdale Avenue](#)
- Review and Approval of April 1, 2020 Minutes

See [Packet 1](#) and [Packet 2](#) – Supplemental Information

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission will meet virtually Thursday, June 4th, at 7:00 p.m.

To Join the meeting by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86739695368> or +16465588656,,86739695368#

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Wetland Decisions
 - Informal Discussion for a proposed tree removal at 138 Lake Avenue
 - Preliminary Discussion – Northland Mixed-Use Development
 - Request for an Order of Conditions (“OOC”) regarding a Notice of Intent (“NOI”) for construction of a new detached garage and new driveway at 24 Village Road
 - Request for an Order of Conditions (“OOC”) regarding a Notice of Intent (“NOI”) for a mixed-use Chapter 40B Development at 15 Riverdale Avenue
 - Request for an Order of Conditions (“OOC”) regarding a Notice of Intent (“NOI”) for ecological restoration at 791 Walnut Street – Newton Cemetery
 - Notice of Intent hydro-raking and associated site work at Houghton GardenConservation Area
 - Request for an amendment to an Order of Conditions (“OOC”) for lawn extension with associated grading, retaining walls, and plantings at 62 Carlton Road – See [Amendment Narrative](#) and [Amendment Plans](#)
- Conservation Area Decisions
- Administrative DecisionsDis
 - Discussion – Unrestricted Hydraulic Flow
 - Review of Standard Conditions
 - Approval of May 14, 2020 Minutes
- Issues Around Town
 - FY2020-2027 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Packet Documents can be found [here](#).

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Newton SEPAC to Meet this week

The Newton SEPAC is scheduled to meet virtually on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. NOTE: The Zoom link is not on the agenda at

The [agenda](#) includes the following:

- Vote to approve past meeting minutes
- Update on awards planning
- Update on elections
- New business, updates from the administration

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Development Review Team Meetings – Week of May 31st

The following potential projects/proposals are scheduled to meet virtually with the Development Review Team this week:

- **145 Warren Street** – Special Permit for proposed single-family attached dwellings with dimensional waivers

The Development Review Team Snapshot can be found [here](#).

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