

**Waban Area Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 10 2019  
Waban Library Center**

**WAC Members Present:** Kathryn Winters, Patrick Maher, Sallee Lipshutz, Chris Pitts, Rena Getz, Bob Jampol. Dinah Bodkin, Isabelle Ahlbeck.

**City Councilors Present:** John Rice, Deb Crossley

**Members of the Community:** Maureen Reilly Meagher, Fran Godine, Bill Humphrey, Betsy Hewitt, Alan Noguee.

**December Minutes and Treasurer's Report Approved**

**Election of 2019 Officers.** Identical to 2018; entire slate approved unanimously.

**Riverside Update.** In view of the city's announcement of a visioning process for Riverside, Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association has decided not to circulate petition expressing concern re Riverside Development. They will wait for the visioning process to run its course. WAC members expressed general concern that Riverside Development will affect sewage in Waban. MR: A budget line item to do exploratory work on aged sewer system was removed. JR: Location of break in sewer system still uncertain. Sewer issues were again raised later at the meeting when Councilor Deb Crossley was present. Her assessment of our water and sewage repair dates is that it will take ten years to get to maintenance level for sewage and 20 years for water.

**Solar Sites Phase III.** Hearing January 13 in City Hall. See [http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/building/solar\\_phase\\_3.asp](http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/building/solar_phase_3.asp) All roofs of newly constructed buildings are solar panel ready. The main issue discussed was the proposed solar canopy at Newton Free Library. This would be done in conjunction with a major reconfiguration of the parking lot at the library which would add parking spaces and (hopefully) eliminate flooding problem at the parking lot. Two proposals are under consideration, one with a pedestrian walkway, one without. The center berms as well as the trees growing on them would be eliminated. Many of the trees would be replanted, but several would be lost. Alan Noguee Former Director of

Climate and Energy Policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists stated that those looking at the choices Newton faces have not looked at the “big picture.” The savings in CO2 emissions far outweighs the environmental impact of losing trees. The position he stated at the WAC meeting is summarized here- <https://www.greennewton.org/in-the-world-of-energy-choices-newtons-solar-phase-3-proposal-is-as-good-as-it-gets/>.

**Zoning Reform Update** Joint Meeting Waban and Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Councils Saturday Jan 26 2pm at WLC. Presentation of proposed NZO on the Village Districts as well as the Purpose section. The Planning Department will be presenting the Buildout Analysis of the city under the current Zoning Ordinance as composed to the proposed Zoning Ordinance at their Monday Feb 11 meeting.

**Recreational Marijuana** Dispensary Meeting to be held this week with Design Review Team for 1158 Beacon St. Application for South Pacific site has been withdrawn.

**Future Plans for WAC:** RG suggested WAC members reporting back to Council re Northland, Riverside and other areas of major concern. Discussion will be continued at next meeting.

**Announcements:** As in Agenda

**Meeting adjourned 9:35pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by Dinah Bodkin**