



Beautiful Newtonville

Revitalizing Newtonville, Massachusetts

Newtonville Seeks More Vibrant Downtown

Beautiful Newtonville identifies community vision to revitalize village, approval secured by Board of Aldermen for local elections

NEWTONVILLE, MA - April 10, 2013: A survey released today by *Beautiful Newtonville* (BN) finds that local residents and businesses want to restore commercial vitality and a sense of community to their village. Newtonville stakeholders want to transform their downtown from an errand spot to a destination, according to the report, *Common Ground*, based on responses from over 6% of local residents and over three quarters of downtown establishments. Businesses and residents favor an initial improvement of Walnut St. (Newtonville Ave. to Walnut Place) by widening sidewalks for pedestrian appeal and outdoor dining, while maintaining or expanding main street parking, according to survey results.

The report follows approval by Newton's Board of Aldermen for a locally elected Newtonville *Neighborhood Area Council*, which followed a year-long petition drive by Beautiful Newtonville.

"*Beautiful Newtonville's* efforts mark a new level of Newton civic engagement and community collaboration with government," said Ward 2 Alderman Stephen Linsky, Chair of the City's Long-Term Planning Committee.

Common Ground reveals strong support for measures including:

- A unified plan for improved sidewalks, public parking, traffic planning, and business loading
- Outdoor dining and benches
- More green public areas with trees and landscaping
- Coordinated, appealing building façade, awnings, and storefronts
- Increased rail service and improved platform access

"This report provides a helpful starting point for the City and the local community to explore ways to revitalize Newtonville, as part of an overall initiative to improve all Newton villages," said Candace Havens, Director of Newton's Planning and Development Department.

"By talking to a large group of businesses and residents, *Beautiful Newtonville* has developed an invaluable perspective on the needs and vision of the Village's different stakeholders," said Chris Steele, Chair of the Newton Economic Development Commission. "The group has built an effective model of community outreach and engagement for all Newton villages."

Due to the planned 2014 repaving of Walnut St., *Beautiful Newtonville* will collaborate with the City of Newton during a public meeting to present BN's report and allow Newtonville residents and businesses to exchange improvement ideas with City planners. The meeting will take place:

- **When:** Thursday May 23rd, 2013 at 6:45PM
- **Where:** The New Art Center, 61 Washington Park *between Harvard St and Walnut St, off Madison Ave.

Beautiful Newtonville is a non-profit organization with pending 501c (3) status committed to revitalizing downtown Newtonville. See the full report at www.beautifulnewtonville.org
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