



Newton Lower Falls IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

LOWDOWN FALL 2019

LETTER FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

By Erin Kandamar and Kathleen Snyder

Dear Neighbors:

We are well into a beautiful New England Fall season. The Fall is a busy time in our community and we are excited to share some updates and upcoming events.

The LFIA Riverside Committee will hold an important community-wide meeting on **Sunday, October 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hamilton Community Center** to share information about reaching a compromise with Mark Development around zoning. The Riverside Committee has been working very hard over the past year to advocate and support our neighborhood's best interests regarding the mixed-use development at Riverside. Please try to attend this meeting as we are reaching a critical juncture in the process.

The first weekend of November is one of my favorite weekends in Lower Falls as we kick off the holiday season with our annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday, November 2. And in case you didn't have enough food and wine from the night before, you can continue celebrating on Sunday, November 3 during our combined Halloween/Diwali festival at the Hamilton Community Center.

In addition to the party, we have scheduled our Fall LFIA Community meeting for that Sunday afternoon. Please see the agenda on the next page of this newsletter. If all goes well in the next few weeks regarding the Riverside process, we anticipate sharing some good news about the project on the 3rd.

Got an idea for an event? Interested in fundraising? Or looking for a way to get more involved in our community? Please contact your co-presidents at:

erin@kandamar.com and

snyderkathleen@gmail.com.

We'd love to chat!

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NEW NEIGHBOR

By Cate Stabile

Rob Sloane moved to 17 DeForest Road from West Newton earlier this year. He has two daughters, Miranda (10) and Alice (7), and a Shetland sheepdog named Weylyn. Rob is on the faculty at Boston University School of Law, where he teaches and writes primarily in the areas of international law and human rights. In his free time, he enjoys reading, playing acoustic guitar and agility training with Weylyn. Please welcome our new neighbor!

New to the neighborhood? Want to be included in the next Lowdown? Please contact me at stabilec@gmail.com.

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**LFIA COMMUNITY MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 2-4PM
HAMILTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of Minutes (Spring 2018)
- Treasurer's Report
- Fundraising Updates
- Communication Updates
- Beautification Committee Update
- Ice Rink Update
- Membership Report
- Riverside Update

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**BOO! LOWER FALLS HALLOWEEN PARTY
WITH SPECIAL DIWALI CELEBRATION**

By Dan Tortorice

Please join us for a Lower Falls Halloween and Diwali celebration!

**Date: Sunday, November 3rd
Time: 2:30 - 4:00pm
Place: Community Center Rec Room**

We will have Halloween and Diwali themed snacks, crafts, and games. Costumes are encouraged.

Please RSVP the number of children to Dan Tortorice at tortoric@gmail.com so we can buy

enough snacks. The party will take place rain or shine.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with activities and clean up. If interested please contact Kartini Shastry at:

kartini.shastry@gmail.com.

What is Diwali? Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights celebrated every year in autumn. The holiday celebrates different historical events and stories, but all symbolize the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, hope over despair.

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PHOTOS NEEDED FOR 2020 LOWER FALLS CALENDAR

By Ted Chapman

We will be assembling photos for the 2020 Newton Lower Falls Calendar. Calendar sales benefit the Lower Falls Improvement Association. The theme will again be the natural world of Lower Falls. If you have photos you would like to contribute, send them to Ted Chapman (at ehchapman@verizon.net) by November 15th.

If anyone is interested in helping to make this happen, please let me know in your email.

The photos will need to be high resolution and may not be emailable in that format, so send a lower quality photo and if selected we can get the higher quality image later.

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RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT HEATS UP

By the LFIA Riverside Committee

The LFIA Riverside Committee (aka RightSize Riverside) has been working with city officials and Mark Development for months to reach agreement on a more reasonably scaled plan than the developers' original 1.5 million square feet proposal. We have made great progress, and we are close to reaching a compromise.

The Riverside Committee is holding a special community meeting on Sunday, Oct. 27 at noon at the Hamilton Community Center to report on our progress and to answer your questions. If you care about development at Riverside, please consider attending this meeting. We are at a critical juncture in the process!

Wondering about the City Council's review process? Here are the steps needed for approval of a Riverside proposal:

1. Zoning and Planning Committee votes whether or not to recommend a special Riverside zone that sets maximum project square footage, maximum building heights, minimum building setbacks from the street, and other elements. The Committee sends recommendation to full City Council.

2. Full City Council votes on the zoning proposal.

3. Land Use Committee considers traffic, design, fiscal impact, and other elements and votes whether or not to recommend granting a special permit to Mark Development. Committee sends recommendation to full City Council.

4. Full City Council votes on the special permit proposal.

In addition to the Oct. 27 community meeting, please mark your calendars for these upcoming City Council meetings related to Riverside. They are held in Newton City Hall and start at 7 p.m. Details to follow as we learn them:

- Monday 10/28: Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP)
- Tuesday 10/29: Land Use Committee
- Thursday 11/7: Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP); separate Land Use Committee

We expect that the vote on zoning with the full council could happen as early as November 7th.

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LOWER FALLS LOWER WASTE

By Bev Chapman

A group of neighbors joined together recently to find ways to reduce the waste we generate, especially plastic. Several area entrepreneurs have started new businesses offering everything from cleaning products to olive oil to Haagen Daaz in a zero-waste format. We are gathering and sharing information about the

places that offer zero-waste or low-waste products, and we hope to support one another in various ways in making the transition to lower-waste living. We are also branching off into other activities like asking local restaurants to switch from the black plastic take-out containers (which are not recyclable) to cardboard, or at least to the white plastic ones which are recyclable. All this is just a starting place. We have only had our first meeting, and we've given our group a name: "Lower Falls Lower Waste." The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 14th. All are welcome to join. If interested, email Bev Chapman at bevchapman@verizon.net.



LOWER FALLS YARD SALE, A SUCCESS!

By Michael Lorant



The community yard sale held in September was a great success. We all had fun selling, buying and mingling during the backdrop of a beautiful fall day. The whole community will benefit as well. Much of the proceeds were donated to the NLFIA. A huge thank you goes out to Hilary Bialek and Crisanne Hazen for organizing this fun event.



NOVEMBER 2019 TRAILS UPDATE

By Ted Chapman

The Riverside Greenway Working Group has been actively engaged in promoting the trails along the Charles River, making connections between Lower Falls, Riverside, Auburndale, and beyond. This Greenway will be a network of trails that will restore access the recreational and transportation enhancements enjoyed by Newton residents in the 18th and early 19th Century before the Charles River was swallowed by highway construction. This work is happening due to the enthusiastic support and collaboration of the Mass DCR, Mass DOT, the City of Newton, Bike Newton, The Newton Conservators, and State Representative Kay Khan. To achieve our ends the RGWG has received grants from the DCR-Recreational Trails, the new MassTrails Programs and the Solomon Foundation, and the Newton Community Preservation Act totaling \$384,439.

From the original Two Bridges Trail, our vision has expanding to include more than 20 projects that we are directly involved with or advocating for. Some highlights include:

- 25% Design of the Two Bridges Trail

- Conceptual Design Study of the Riverside Greenway
- The Pony Truss Trail restoration to be completed by 2020
- 100% Design of the Pigeon Hill Trail making it ready for construction with the Recreation Road Footbridge
- Replacement of the Recreation Rd. Footbridge at the Lasell boathouse, schedule for replacement by Mass DOT in 2021
- Conceptual Design of the Commonwealth Ave Greenway in Auburndale
- Inclusion of a multi-use trail on restored Route 30 Charles River Bridge
- Requiring the Riverside Development Special Permit to include construction funding for: (1) the Two Bridges Trail with connections to Riverside and Lower Falls; (2) a new trail from Grove St. to Riverside Park on the C-D Road; and (3) restoration of the Riverside Depot Tunnel.

<https://riversidegreenwayma.wildapricot.org>.

On the website, you can download our presentation at the Newton Library in January 2019 or connect to ways support the Greenway work by donating to our dedicated “Riverside Fund” at the Newton Conservators, or by volunteering your time and expertise to further our mission of ‘creating connections / restoring a legacy.’

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The Lowdown is the newsletter of the Lower Falls Improvement Association, Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462 • LFIA website: <https://newtonlowerfalls.org>

Editor: Summer Zeh • Email comments to summerzeh@gmail.com

The conversion of the existing Commonwealth Ave carriage road between Lyons Field and the Boat House is an amazing opportunity. The City of Newton and Solomon Foundation have funded the conceptual design, which will make the project eligible for construction funding in conjunction with the replacement of the Route 30 Charles River Bridge. This trail will cross the Charles and connect to the beautiful DCR owned Norumbega Road, and more than 100 miles of trails in Weston. Equally exciting is that the Town of Weston is designing a multiuse trail that will extend 3.5 miles from I-95 to Wayland along Route 30. Together these projects maybe eligible for Federal Transportation Improvement funds. The advocacy of the RGWG is making this happen.

You can learn more about all of this on our website at: