

Members of the Community – Friends of Newton Centre
Newton Centre, MA 02459

April 25, 2006

Newton Centre Task Force
City Hall
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RE: Petition request to the Newton Centre Task Force

Dear Newton Centre Task Force Members:

We the undersigned, as residents, merchants, and property owners, want to express our reservations about the process and direction that the Newton Centre Task Force has taken to date.

As reflected in the comments of the large number of concerned citizens who turned out for the "visioning" session at the Community Center, there is very strong support in the community for a vision and plan for Newton Centre that retains the scale and character of the center while improving traffic, parking, lighting and the pedestrian experience of the multiple uses in the Center. This support stands in opposition to the extensive development and increased building density that has been reflected in the Task Force's "Development Visions." The community desires a more open Task Force process, one that communicates clearly and frequently with local residents and merchants and engages the community at large.

We, the undersigned, are hereby petitioning the Task Force to revise its mission to focus on improvements to Newton Centre that enhance the pedestrian experience, the residential and retail environment, and the parking and traffic situation, while preserving the current scale and character of the Village Center. We further petition the Task Force to develop alternatives that reflect this revised mission. We are also petitioning the Task Force to adopt and implement a much more open, representative, and participatory process going forward and to expand or reconstitute the Task Force to better represent the sentiments and makeup of the Newton Centre community of residents, merchants, and property owners.

We hereby request an explicit acceptance or rejection of this constructive set of proposals by the "Friends of Newton Centre" so that we can all move forward in as collaborative a manner as possible.

Sincerely,