

Mayor
Michelle J. Teets

Deputy Mayor
John-Paul E. Couce

Council Members
Matthew S. Dickson
Sandra Lee Diglio
Helen R. Le Frois



Town Manager
Thomas S. Russo, Jr.

Town Clerk
Teresa A. Oswin

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39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860

May 2, 2023

New Jersey Business Action Center
Office of Planning Advocacy
P.O. Box 820
Trenton, NJ 08625-0820

ATTN: Donna Rendeiro, Executive Director

RE: Town of Newton, Sussex County, Plan Endorsement and Regional Center Renewal Statement

Dear Ms. Rendeiro,

The Town of Newton is seeking renewal of its Plan Endorsement and Regional Center Designation, which was received on May 15th, 2013 and is set to expire in May of 2023. Since receiving Plan Endorsement and Regional Center designation from the State Planning Commission, the Town of Newton has continued to be proactive in planning. While remaining consistent with the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, the Town of Newton has made significant strides in improving its economy, enhancing and retaining social and cultural features, and preserving and protecting environmentally sensitive lands and resources. The following narrative describes Newton's major planning initiatives over the last ten years, all of which are consistent with and further the eight goals of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Over the last ten years, the Town of Newton has completed numerous Area in Need of Redevelopment Studies and Plans, two Master Plan Reexamination Reports to address community needs and affordable housing, significant changes to the zoning code, and grant awards to implement numerous infrastructure projects to improve the area. Specifically, Newton has been proactive in improving connectivity through sidewalk improvements and trail connections, downtown improvements, and historic district inventories. One major planning initiative occurred in 2012 when Newton adopted the current form-based zoning code, which emphasized mixed uses, compact development, a variety of housing types and prices, even distribution of recreation opportunities, and walkability. In 2013, the Town adopted a Strategic Vision, which identified Newton as, "Sussex County's downtown: a charming, unique place to live and visit that is compact, attractive and offers arts, entertainment, dining, shopping and activities for all ages." This vision remains today.

Ensuring a variety of housing types to accommodate all income levels has been a priority for Newton. In the 2015 HEFSP, Newton identified six inclusionary zones and ensured its intent to continue the Town's rehabilitation program. The Town received Third Round certification from the Superior Court on May 27, 2016, where it was determined Newton is credited with 190 affordable units. Newton's Third Round Obligation was determined to be 83 units. The 108 excess credits could apply to Present Need and future obligations that may be identified in the upcoming Fourth Round.

Newton recognizes that sustainability and climate-change mitigation has been an increasingly important topic over the last decade. In addition to maintaining compliance with updated State regulations for stormwater runoff and electric vehicle service equipment stations, Newton is taking strides to protect and preserve the

environment at the municipal level through ordinances to prevent flood damage, partnering with New Jersey Future and the Rutgers University Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to become a “Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure” Pilot Town, and ultimately the preparation of a Reduction Action Plan through that program.

Newton is growing, both in population and in employment. Between 2020 and 2021, Newton saw a 6 percent increase in population and a 3 percent increase in employment. Though some years saw a decrease in one or both over the last decade, the trend has been an increasing one. Between new housing complexes such as the Newton Town Centre on Spring Street and the G&H property on Water Street, and multiple grants and initiatives in process which are strengthening the businesses in Newton, the Town is hopeful that its population and employment rates will increase in similar ways over the next few years.

Recent planning efforts and their respective public input processes have indicated that residents are excited to see what Newton has in store and, as such, Newton fully intends to remain proactive in its planning efforts over the next ten years and beyond. Residents and business owners love Newton for its hometown charm, wide array of local businesses, and the many historic sites and features that the Town actively protects and supports. The benefits associated with State Plan Endorsement would be an invaluable tool the Town can use to further its vision for the community as well as the State Plan’s goals and objectives for New Jersey.

Attached to this letter you will find the documents requested for Plan Endorsement and Regional Center Designation Renewal. Thank you for this exciting opportunity to continue to work with the State Planning Commission in revitalizing the Town of Newton and the State of New Jersey. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information.

| Town of Newton, Sussex County Population and Employment Change 2010-2021 | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Population | | % Change | Employment | | % Change |
| 2010 | 7,997 | - | 2010 | 3,442 | - |
| 2011 | 8,065 | 0.85% | 2011 | 3,392 | -1.45% |
| 2012 | 7,983 | -1.02% | 2012 | 3,161 | -6.81% |
| 2013 | 8,043 | 0.75% | 2013 | 3,370 | 6.61% |
| 2014 | 7,999 | -0.55% | 2014 | 3,300 | -2.08% |
| 2015 | 8,036 | 0.46% | 2015 | 3,525 | 6.82% |
| 2016 | 7,982 | -0.67% | 2016 | 3,525 | 0.00% |
| 2017 | 7,937 | -0.56% | 2017 | 3,798 | 7.74% |
| 2018 | 7,895 | -0.53% | 2018 | 3,823 | 0.66% |
| 2019 | 7,910 | 0.19% | 2019 | 4,017 | 5.07% |
| 2020 | 7,935 | 0.32% | 2020 | 4,038 | 0.52% |
| 2021 | 8,423 | 6.15% | 2021 | 4,157 | 2.95% |

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Very truly yours,



Mayor Michelle J. Teets

cc: Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager
 Jessica C. Caldwell Dykstra, Town Planner
 Matthew Blake, Senior Planner, NJ OPA



TOWN OF NEWTON

RESOLUTION #149-2023

May 8, 2023

“Statement of Intent for the Town of Newton to Pursue Plan Endorsement Renewal and Authorization to Submit Renewal Statement to the Office of Planning Advocacy”

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act recognizes New Jersey requires sound and integrated land use planning and coordination of planning at all levels of government in order to conserve the State's natural resources, revitalize the urban centers, protect the quality of the environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development, and renewal; and

WHEREAS, Plan Endorsement is a voluntary review process developed by the State Planning Commission to provide the technical assistance and coordination of the State for municipalities, counties, and regional agencies to meet the goals of the State Planning Act and State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan Endorsement process is to increase the degree of consistency among municipal, county, regional, and State agency plans with each other and with the State Plan and to facilitate the implementation of these plans and guide where and how development and redevelopment can be accommodated in accordance with the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines incorporate, and expand upon, the principles of the Municipal Land Use Law in order to help towns plan for a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton is seeking renewal of its Plan Endorsement and Regional Center Designation, which was received on May 15, 2013 and is set to expire on May 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines require the preparation and submission of a Plan Endorsement Renewal Statement and associated documentation as the means by which a municipality assesses the consistency of its existing community vision and planning documents with the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Newton desire to renew Plan Endorsement from the State Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton has prepared a Plan Endorsement Renewal Statement pursuant to the State Planning Rules and Plan Endorsement Guidelines;

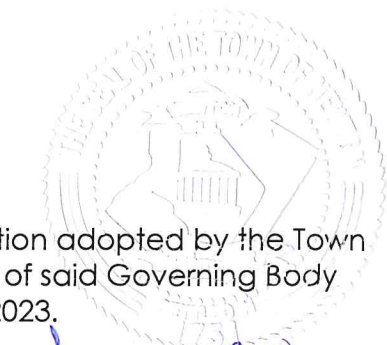
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of Town of Newton hereby expressly state the intention of the Town of Newton to pursue Plan Endorsement by the State Planning Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Newton approves the Plan Endorsement Renewal Statement and authorizes it be submitted to the Office for Planning Advocacy for consideration and review as part of the effort to pursue Plan Endorsement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Town of Newton shall transmit a copy of this Resolution and the Notice as required by the State Planning Rules to the State Planning Commission and the Office for Planning Advocacy.

CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Newton at a regular meeting of said Governing Body conducted on Monday, May 8, 2023.



Teresa A. Oswin

Teresa A. Oswin, RMC
Municipal Clerk