



TOWN OF HOPKINTON

OFFICE OF
BOARD OF APPEALS

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Zoning Reform Committee (ZRC)

Mission Statement

The Zoning Reform Committee (ZRC) shall develop and draft recommendations for consideration by the Board of Appeals pursuant to its responsibilities as a Special Permit Granting Authority under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A in light of legislation currently pending in the Massachusetts House of Representatives (H.R. Bill 3544) and the Massachusetts Senate (S Bill 168) calling for substantial zoning reform in the Commonwealth.

Objective

The ZRC shall analyze all aspects of the proposed state legislation to anticipate and consider the impact of such legislation on the current Town of Hopkinton Zoning By-laws and the authority and operations of the Board of Appeals. ZRC shall make specific recommendations to the Board of Appeals for modification and improvement of said zoning by-laws and the Rules of the Board of Appeals in light of such pending legislation. Moreover, the ZRC shall, with the coordination and input of the various Boards and Committees within the Town, specifically including the Planning Board and the Director of Municipal Inspections, develop recommendations for a coordinated, cooperative, and concurrent process for site plan review by the Board of Appeals as it carries out its current responsibilities as Special Permit Granting Authority for the Town of Hopkinton and its future responsibilities pursuant to the proposed new Section 7A of MGL c. 40A of the pending legislation.

The recommendations shall facilitate a regulatory process whereby the Board of Appeals issues appropriate relief which does not, to the greatest extent possible, require or necessitate that the Applicant to apply to, or subsequently revisit with, other regulatory boards or departments within the Town for similar relief thereby 1) unreasonably increasing the time to complete the municipal permitting process, 2) unnecessarily adding to the costs of regulation to the Applicant, including engineering and legal expenses, and 3) amplifying the likelihood of issuance of contradictory decisions by the town's regulatory boards and departments.

The Board of Appeals shall consider the ZRC's recommendations and communicate appropriate comments to the Planning Board's Zoning Advisory Committee, and/or sponsor warrant articles for suitable changes to the Town's zoning by-laws at the appropriate Town Meeting. The Board of Appeals shall also amend its Rules as may be deemed necessary or advisable.

Membership

The Membership of the ZRC shall consist of at least three members of the Board of Appeals, which shall include the Chairman of the Board of Appeals and the Board of Appeals' two representatives to the Planning Board's Zoning Advisory Committee. The Chairman of the ZRC may also appoint additional members from the Board of Appeals in his or her discretion and determine the voting rights of the individuals serving on the ZRC.

Target for Completion

The target for completion of this project is February 1, 2007.