



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

March 21, 2022

Adam Dash
Chair, Select Board
Town of Belmont
Town Hall
455 Concord Ave
Belmont, MA 02478

Dear Mr. Dash:

The position of Belmont's Representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is **currently vacant**. It is my hope that the Town will participate on the Council by appointing a Representative for a three-year term, and I have outlined this process below.

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40B, Section 24, when the term of an appointed member expires, his/her successor shall be appointed **for a term of three years**. This term should commence on the date of appointment and must comply with the statute in order to be considered valid.

We recommend that the Town select an elected or appointed official or resident who can effectively represent Belmont's interests in the region, and who will appropriately report back to the Town on MAPC's projects and policy priorities.

In keeping with MAPC's ongoing efforts to diversify our staff and members of the Council, we always appreciate it if an appointing authority can give due consideration to candidates who might help MAPC to reflect more accurately the population of our region, and for those reasons, we especially encourage you to consider appointing a woman or person of color.

Please be aware that in the capacity of Council Representative, individuals hold a statutory office and are considered to be special state employees within the meaning of various statutes, including the Conflict of Interest Law.¹

This is an exciting time for smart growth and regional collaboration and MAPC is rising to the challenge:

- *MetroCommon 2050*, Greater Boston's long-range regional plan, was adopted in 2021 and guides our work. *MetroCommon* describes a vision for a more equitable, resilient, and inclusive future through a series of action areas, goals, and actionable recommendations. The plan is supported by a series of research products, data, and decision-making tools designed to help cities and towns understand current conditions and future trajectories. Learn more at metrocommon.mapc.org.
- MAPC provides top-notch technical assistance to its member communities – drafting zoning bylaws, preparing applications to state government, helping communities to prepare for natural or man-made disasters, protecting water supplies, establishing 40R or 43D districts, etc. We assist our communities to develop and implement all manner of plans, including housing, economic

¹ Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 268A

development, open space protection, and/or downtown vibrancy. Often, MAPC can cover all or part of the costs of these efforts.

- MAPC does not stand still. In recent years we have added new programs for our members, covering topics such as clean energy, public health, and arts and culture planning.
- The Council has an active legislative agenda, overseen by its Legislative Committee. Currently, for instance, we are actively engaged in efforts to expand funding for the Community Preservation Act (CPA), to reform the state's antiquated zoning and subdivision laws, and to increase local transportation funding opportunities for cities and towns.
- As vice chair of the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we play an active role in making sure that the voice of our member communities is heard in regional efforts to program federal transportation funds.
- We continue to assist communities in the bulk purchase of goods and services – everything from fire trucks to office supplies. Buying as a group keeps the price low and helps to ensure quality products and services. We have added many new products and services that are consistent with our mission, such as smart parking systems that include smart meters and mobile payment applications; local produce, meat and fish for schools; and automated vehicle locator systems for public works vehicles.
- We believe that achieving equity is paramount to the long-term economic and social wellbeing of the Metro Boston region and the Commonwealth. MAPC is committed to advancing equity in the region through our organization policies, planning projects, and public policy positions.

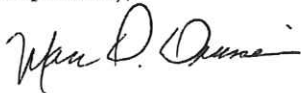
You can learn more about MAPC's ongoing activities by consulting our website, www.mapc.org, or you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

MAPC takes pride in playing a critical role to promote sustainable growth and inter-local cooperation across the region. We value Belmont's involvement in deliberations about the region's physical, social and economic condition, and we need your participation. We look forward to the involvement of your new appointee.

I would also like to point out that the Town has the option of appointing an Alternate member to serve conterminously with the Representative. Details on this process are enclosed with this letter. The Alternate member can vote at all Council meetings on behalf of the Town in the absence of the Representative.

Please address any questions regarding the appointment process to Andrea Aponte, Operations Specialist I, at aaponte@mapc.org. Or, if you have broader questions about the role of MAPC and its Council members, feel free to call me directly at (617) 933-0701, or contact me by email at mdraisen@mapc.org. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,



Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

Enclosure

