



# Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

## Information for Prospective Candidates

### ZBA Powers & Duties

The ZBA is charged with exercising judgement in considering when to allow discretionary uses or grant exceptions from certain zoning regulations, through special permits or variances, and to hear appeals of decisions by the Building Commissioner.

### Who are the ZBA?

The ZBA is comprised of volunteers who are interested in and care about the development of the city. To be eligible, one must be a Worcester resident of one-year or longer and a registered voter.

### Profession Background

ZBA members have varied backgrounds, including engineering, law, business, and real estate. They share a common interest in ensuring that development regulations are fairly implemented and protect the interests of property owners and neighbors alike.

### ZBA Member Responsibilities

- ◆ Participate in meetings.
- ◆ Conduct site visits on their own time.
- ◆ Become familiar with the Zoning Ordinance and applicable land use regulations.
- ◆ Review applications, plans and staff memos.



### ZBA Meetings

- ◆ Opportunity for the Commission to ask questions and hear public comment.
- ◆ Held at City Hall on Mondays at 5:30 PM (typically twice per month).
- ◆ Televised on the City of Worcester Government Channel and website.

### Joining the ZBA

The ZBA is comprised of a member from each of Worcester's five voting districts, plus two associate members from any district.

To view current vacancies and apply for openings:

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/>

### Appointment Process

- ◆ Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) conducts initial interviews.
- ◆ City staff interview finalists and make recommendations.
- ◆ City Manager makes appointments, which are confirmed by City Council.

### Questions?

For more information, contact staff at:

Division of Planning and Regulatory Services  
455 Main Street - Room 404  
Worcester, MA 01608

Tel: 508-799-1400 ext. 260

[Planning@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Planning@worcesterma.gov)