

Working Group on the
Zoning Revisions Committee (ZRC)
Draft Ordinance #1

Establishment; purpose

The Zoning Revisions Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) is hereby established, the purpose of which is to assist and ensure that the City identify, develop and revise where appropriate zoning ordinances that serve to implement the Sustainability Plan as adopted on May 22, 2008 (?). Said Committee shall consist of nine residents of the City and shall be appointed as provided in the following sections. The committee shall be organized as a sub-committee of the Planning Board and its charge shall be threefold;

- To review and revise as appropriate current zoning ordinances that serve to implement the goals of the Northampton Sustainability plan
- To serve as an additional technical resource to the Planning Board in matters of zoning revisions.
- To encourage and provide forums for public input to the zoning revisions process.

Membership

Committee shall consist of nine voting members, residents of the City who shall be appointed by the Planning Board. The composition of the Committee shall be as follows;

- Three appointees shall have the technical skills and experience to address zoning, land use and planning issues.
- Three appointees will represent broad based community interests (e.g. representatives of neighborhood, civic or housing related organizations)
- One member representing environmental/conservation interests (e.g. Broad Brook Coalition, local Land Trust, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary)
- One appointee representing economic development interests (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate concerns, commercial or residential developers)
- 1 member representing the Planning Board

The voting members shall serve without compensation

Working Group on the
Zoning Revisions Committee (ZRC)
Draft Ordinance #1

The Director of Planning and Development and Building Commissioner or their designees shall be ex officio staff to the Committee. S/he shall not be entitled to vote on the making of recommendations to be included in its reports or decisions.

The Committee may appoint nonvoting members who shall serve without compensation as subcommittee members. The Committee can establish additional rules and requirements relating to voting and membership. Such rules shall be incorporated into a corresponding bylaw

Filling vacancies.

Whenever any vacancy shall occur on the Committee, it shall be filled by the appointing authority (Planning Board). Any person appointed to fill a vacancy on the Committee shall represent the constituency that the original member represented and hold office for the unexpired term of the person whom s/he succeeds.

Organization, Officers.

The members of the Committee shall elect one member to serve as Chairperson and one member to serve as Vice-chair for a two-year term. Elections will be held annually. The Chairperson may establish subcommittees and/or ad hoc task-related committees to carry out the work of the Partnership. These subcommittees will meet as needed, with the meetings being publicly posted in advance according to the Open Meeting Law. (See MGL c. 39, § 23B). Chairpersons of the subcommittees may be selected by the members of the subcommittees.

Meetings, Quorums

The Committee shall meet on a regular basis, but in any case, at least quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson. It shall inform the City Clerk of the time and place of any meeting and shall hold all meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law and any other applicable state or federal statutes. A quorum shall consist of 51% of the active voting members. A majority vote of a quorum shall be sufficient to approve any motion.

Powers, duties and functions.

Working Group on the
Zoning Revisions Committee (ZRC)
Draft Ordinance #1

- A. It shall be the duty of the Committee to assist the City in the review and revisions of current zoning ordinances that serve to further the Goals of the Northampton Sustainability plan. The Committee shall recommend changes, additions, deletions in said ordinances to the Planning Board; if such zoning ordinances do not exist or if new ordinances are deemed necessary, to advise and assist the Planning Board in the formulation of these ordinances so as to achieve the City's sustainability and land use goals.
- B. The Committee will develop an annual priority list of proposed ordinances to be reviewed and a timeline for proposing recommended revisions and additions to the Planning Board
- C. The Committee shall serve as a vehicle for continuous and regular input for the residents of the community in relation to the process of drafting zoning revisions that further the goals of the Northampton Sustainability Plan.
- D. In carrying out these duties, the Committee shall encourage public participation in the process using newspaper, radio and television publicity, surveys, information meetings, public hearings and web resources including e-mail listservs.
- E. The Committee shall have the power to create ad hoc committees and task forces for the carrying out of the purposes of the Committee. Such ad hoc committees and task forces may be comprised of Committee or non-Committee individuals
- F. The Committee shall have the power, subject of the approval of the Planning Board to adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out its responsibilities

What's not addressed here:

** The process for building a wide list of possible appointees.