



BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee shall study proposed capital outlays involving the acquisition of land or involving an expenditure of \$10,000 or more and having a useful life of at least three years. Information is submitted to the Committee concerning all projects anticipated that require Town Meeting action during the ensuing six years. The Committee will consider the relative need, timing, and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the Town.

The Committee shall transmit its recommendation as to items for the ensuing fiscal year to the Finance Committee for its review and possible inclusion in the Town budget. No capital outlay of over \$10,000 can be considered by Town Meeting unless a recommendation has been adopted by the Capital Planning Committee.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission consists of five members for three-year terms, for the promotion and development of natural resources and the protection of watershed resources in the Town. The Commission shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations governing the use of land and waters under its control, and prescribe penalties, not exceeding a fine of \$100, for any violation thereof.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council will carry out programs designed to meet problems of the aging in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts Commission on Aging (Department of Elder Affairs). The Council shall submit an annual report to the Town with a copy to the Department of Elder Affairs. A review and evaluation of reports will be completed with recommendations made for any required or needed changes in local programs.

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Cultural Council is made up of volunteers who are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and who are responsible for making decisions on how they will award the money granted to them by the MCC in ways that will serve local cultural needs. There are currently 329 LCCs in Massachusetts that form an extensive grassroots system of public support for community cultural programs. Collectively, these councils fund thousands of cultural activities in all 351 cities and towns in the state.

DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

The Commission was established for the promotion and development of the industrial resources of the Town.

Section 8A. A city or town which accepts this section may establish a development and industrial commission for the promotion and development of the industrial resources of said city or town. Such commission shall conduct researches into industrial conditions, investigate and assist in the establishment of educational or commercial projects, including projects involving private enterprise, for the purpose of expanding or strengthening the local economy, and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for said purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets which in its judgment will further the purposes for which it is established. The commission may appoint such clerks and other employees as it may require. Such commission shall consist of not less than five nor more than fifteen members. The members in cities shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to the provisions of the city charter, except in cities operating under a Plan D or Plan E form of city charter, said appointments shall be by the city manager, subject to the provisions of the city charter; and in towns they shall be appointed by the selectmen, excepting towns having a manager form of government, in which towns such appointments shall be made by the town manager. When a commission is first established, the terms of the members shall be for such length, not exceeding five years, and so arranged that the terms of approximately one fifth of the members will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of five years each. Any member of a board so appointed in a city may be removed for cause after a public hearing, if requested, by the mayor with the approval of the city council. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term in a city in the same manner as an original appointment, and in a town as provided in section eleven of chapter forty-one.

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

The function of the Commission is to act as a centralizing force in the Town of Hopedale and the community which will address all disability issues by providing information, referral, guidance, and offering technical assistance to other public agencies and private persons, organizations and institutions engaged in activities and programs intended to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against person(s) with disability(ies) because of their status as a person with a disability, or as a minority person with a disability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

The Commission is designed to seek security against future unemployment, or the threat thereof, and lack of business opportunity by attracting new industry to the Town, or substantially expanding industry existing in the Town, through an economic development project or projects. The Commission consists of seven members to be appointed for three-year terms.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall consider all Articles and Warrants for all Town Meetings and Referenda and shall report its recommendations before each meeting or vote in print or at a public meeting for that purpose. The Finance Committee shall have authority at any time to investigate the books and account of any department of the Town. The Committee shall submit a budget at the Annual Town Meeting. The Finance Committee shall review and make a recommendation on all contracts exceeding the amount of \$10,000.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Commission was formed to promote Hopedale's rich history, both within the local Hopedale community and the Blackstone Valley and great Milford regions, and to ensure continued recognition of Hopedale's place in the region's and nation's history. The Commission maintains Hopedale's Little Red Shop Museum as a valuable community asset, and accessibility to the community and works closely with the Red Shop Committee and Friends of Historic Hopedale.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Stated that "there exists in the Town a shortage of safe sanitary dwellings available for families or elderly persons of low income at rentals which they can afford" and "it is hereby determined that a Housing Authority is needed for the provision of housing for families or elderly persons of low incomes"; and organized and established the Hopedale Housing Authority under the provisions of MGL c. 121, § 26K, which was repealed by St. 1969, c. 751, § 2, but replaced by MGL c. 121B, § 3; and voted that a committee of five citizens of the Town be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, with one member of the committee to be appointed by the State Housing Authority.]

MGL c. 121B, § 3 There is hereby created, in each city and town in the commonwealth, a public body politic and corporate to be known as the "Housing authority" of such city or town; provided, that no such authority shall transact any business or exercise any powers until the need for a housing authority has been determined and until a certificate of organization has been issued to it by the state secretary, both as hereinafter provided. Whenever the municipal officers of a city or an annual or special town meeting shall determine that a housing authority is needed therein for the purpose of the clearance of substandard, decadent or blighted open areas or the provision of housing for families or elderly persons of low income or engaging in a land assembly and redevelopment project, including the preservation, restoration or relocation of historical buildings, it may by vote provide for the organization of such an authority. In determining the need for a housing authority, the city council or the town shall take into consideration the need for relieving congestion of population, the existence of substandard, decadent or blighted open areas or unsanitary or unsafe inhabited dwellings, and the shortage of safe or sanitary dwellings available for families or elderly persons of low income at rentals which they can afford. Whenever a housing authority determines that there is no further need for its existence, that it has no property to administer, and that all outstanding obligations of the authority have been satisfied, it may by a majority vote of the five members submit the question of its dissolution, in a town, to the voters at an annual town meeting or, in a city, to the municipal officers. If a city or town votes for such dissolution in accordance herewith and the department is satisfied of the existence of the facts required herein it shall so certify to the state secretary and said housing authority shall be dissolved forthwith subject to the applicable provisions of section fifty-one of chapter one hundred and fifty-five.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee consists of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. All Town departments and all positions in the Town, other than the School Committee and the positions under its jurisdiction, shall be subject to the provision of the Personnel Administration By-law and to those of the Classification and Compensation Plan. The salary of elected officials of the Town shall be established by vote of the Annual Town Meeting.

The Personnel Committee responsibilities shall include an annual review of the wage and salary schedule; the establishment and amendment of a Classification and Compensation Plan in which all Town positions shall be classified, and a review of all positions that are subject to the provision of the Classification and Compensation plan. The Committee shall establish, maintain and amend from time to time, written definitions or job descriptions for all positions appearing in the Classification and Compensation Plan.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals consists of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen and two alternate members.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a quasi-judicial board which interprets and enforces the Town's Zoning By-law. On a case by case basis the Board of Appeals has the power to hear and decide on petitions for: Appeals from the decisions of the Building Inspector; special permits as allowed under the Zoning By-law; variances from the requirements of the Zoning By-law; comprehensive permits under Chapter 40B of the M.G.L.; site plan approval under Section XVV of the Zoning By-law.