

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



Economic Development Committee

TOWN HOUSE · 17 COMMON STREET · SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772
(508) 485-0710 x3011

27 January 2020

Brian Shea, Chair
Board of Selectmen
17 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Members of the Board of Selectman:

The members of the Economic Development Committee are writing to request that the Warrant Article seeking approval at Town Meeting - to change the zoning in the Downtown Village Business District - be withdrawn for consideration at the March 2020 Town Meeting.

First and foremost, the EDC is concerned that the proposed zoning amendment requires additional work before being submitted for public discussion. In addition, procedural concerns have been raised by the recent letter addressed to Selectperson Lisa Braccio by Town Counsel which EDC seeks to address prior to moving forward. The EDC has learned a great deal throughout this process and will require additional time to produce a proposal that will meet the objectives for which it is intended. Namely, to provide a zoning bylaw that will promote mixed use development of a scale that is in keeping with the small-town nature of our bucolic New England community and in line with the recommendations of the current Master Plan.

The EDC intends to act fully within the confines of all legal and procedural requirements, and will ensure that its efforts going forward include the proper timing and procedures in its collaboration with the Planning Board to amend the zoning bylaw for the Downtown Village Business District. The EDC will take additional time to consult with planning consulting resources, both public and private, as well as to secure technical assistance from legal experts fluent in the language of zoning, to produce a proposed amendment for review.

The EDC continues to appreciate the Board of Selectmen's attention and support in this matter and we look forward to continuing to work with you toward a zoning bylaw which will provide the flexibility and certainty necessary to allow small-scale development and

revitalization in our Downtown Business Village District. We will continue to work with residents and the appropriate boards and committees toward this goal.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas L. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Thomas L. Collins,

Chair Economic Development Committee

cc: Board of Selectmen
Mark Purple, Town Administrator
Planning Board