



City of Auburn, Maine

Office of Planning & Permitting

Eric Cousens, Director

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

To: Auburn Planning Board

From: John Blais, Deputy Director of Planning & Permitting

Re: Text Amendment/Reinstatement of Zoning Board of Appeals/Elimination of Regulatory Advisory Board

Date: February 13, 2024

I. PROPOSAL: As part of the larger initiative to reinstate the Board of Assessment Review and the Zoning Board of Appeals as stand-alone boards and eliminate the Regulatory Advisory Board. Ordinance 05-01162024 asks the Planning Board to provide a review under Chapter 60, Article XV. BOARD OF APPEALS. As we make recommendations to reinstate it as a stand-alone board and make minor text amendments to clarify items in Chapter 60, Article XV Sec. 60-1130-31 and Sec. 60-1135. (See attached redlined items)

II. DEPARTMENT REVIEW:

- Police - No Comments
- Auburn Water and Sewer – No Comments
- Fire Department/Code Enforcement – No Comments
- Engineering – No Comments
- Public Services - No Comments
- Airport – No Comments
- 911 - No Comments

III. PLANNING BOARD ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: This item is on the Planning Board agenda as a public hearing item. Staff recommends the Planning Board have an initial discussion and make a formal recommendation to the City Council to the text amendments in Chapter 60, Article XV BOARD OF APPEALS, and make a favorable recommendation to reinstate the zoning BOARD OF APPEALS as a stand-alone board.

Staff recommends this process because it has been hard to fill the vacant positions for the Regulatory Advisory Board due to the breadth of knowledge one would have to know regarding items in the assessors, planning, permitting and code purview/departments. We would like to make it easier to recruit members of the public and allow the appointment committee to keep trained, knowledgeable and willing Board members in good standing for more than 3 terms through the Council reappointment process.

IV. POTENTIAL MOTION: I make a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to amend Chapter 60, Article XV Sec. 60-1130-31, Sec. 60-1135 with proposed edits and to reinstate the zoning BOARD OF APPEALS as a stand-alone board.