



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning Meeting Date: July 5, 2023

The Committee convened on Wednesday July 5, 2023 at 5:30 pm by Zoom, pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. John Gannon, vice chair, was absent. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals interviews. It was called to order at 5:36 pm.

Alexander Dale has a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and is a candidate for appointment to the ZBA. He is the Director of the SOLVE initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, exploring innovative options for decarbonizing housing globally. As a parent with two small children, he is very excited about Watertown's Climate and Energy Plan, and he has been following the Comprehensive Plan update and the vision for Watertown's future. As a facilitator working to develop public policy, he feels he is well equipped to consider the varied public input during ZBA meetings, to reach a reasoned judgement on petitions, and to be able to explain his decision to the public.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the City Council confirm Alexander Dale for appointment as a full member of Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring February 15, 2027. Voted 2-0 on a roll call.

Rachel Sack has a Masters in Energy and Environmental Analysis, and is a candidate for appointment to the Planning Board. She is Chief of the US DOT Volpe Center's Innovative Research Division, and Director of the US DOT Small Business Innovation Research Program. As a resident in the Arsenal corridor, she has seen many changes, and wants to become more involved in the future growth of Watertown, particularly with transportation and climate issues. As a transportation professional, and a facilitator in her public policy role, she feels well suited to handle complex issues where there is a wide range of public input, and balance all the facts when making a decision. She feels it is important to acknowledge public input and how it was considered when explaining how a decision was made.

➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the City Council confirm Rachel Sack for appointment to the Planning Board for a term expiring February 15, 2027. Voted 2-0 on a roll call.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm on a roll call.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli