



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: October 7, 2025

The Committee convened on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the Council Office. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; John Gannon, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) confirmation interview.

The discussion focused on qualifications found in our CPC Ordinance, that in addition to community preservation advocates for open space and land for recreational use, historic resources, and community housing, residents should also:

- Have deep connections to different constituencies within the city to make it more responsive to the needs of its residents;
- Can bring specific skills to the execution of tasks required by the Committee;
- Can bring specific outlooks that may not normally be heard through the City's routine procedures; and
- Value new approaches and ideas to identifying projects outside the City's routine budget priority process.

Allison Eck has a dual degree in Physics and Comparative Literature and is currently the Executive Communications Manager for Harvard Medical School. She has lived in Watertown for 13 years, and she has been involved in various community groups including Watertown Community Conversations, Live Well Watertown, and the Immigrant Mutual Aid Network, which have enabled her to build strong community connections. She happily refers to herself as a “Watertown nerd” and loves learning more about the town.

Regarding taking a leadership role, she will have to see after spending some time on the CPC; she does have some leadership experience from being President of the Board of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra for five years. This leadership experience, as well as her experience as a trained facilitator for Watertown Community Conversations, will be helpful as the CPC navigates difficult issues and tries to avoid split votes for projects. With the CPC updating their 5-year plan next year, she has experience with this, because when she was on the Orchestra board she led their strategic planning process. Outreach to the community is something she wants to prioritize, and her work expertise will be helpful in accomplishing this. She wants to make a broader range of people aware of the funding available and encourage more ideas to come forward for project applications.

- **Action Item:** Councilor Gannon made a motion, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli, to recommend that the City Council confirm of Allison Eck for appointment to the Community Preservation Committee as an At-Large member for a term expiring February 1, 2027. Voted 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli