# TOWN OF WEYMOUTH BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS APPLICATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF	Town Clerk Stamp
Case Number:	<del>-</del>
Submittal Accepted:	Date ffor <u>minimal</u> requirements
Determined to be complete and may now be fil	ed with Town Clerk: Signature of Principal Planner or Director
PROPERTY INFORMATION - TO BE COMPL	
PROJECT / PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS:	1500 Main Street, Weymouth, MA 02190
Assessor's Map Sheet, Block, & Lot: Map 6	1, Block 627, Lot 25
Zoning District: Limited Business (B-	1) Overlay District: Commercial Corridor
OWNER OF RECORD (S) (print & sign):	S Realty, LLC (See Exhibit A, B, and C) o owns title to the property as of today's date)
Address of owner of record: 40 Waverly	Street, Framingham, MA 01702
Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book and Pa	age No. <u>16371/86</u>
Or registered in Land Registration Office under	Certificate No
NAME OF APPLICANT (S) (print & sign):	hn M. Corcoran & Co., LLC
Applicant's Address: 100 Grandview R	oad, Suite 203, Braintree, MA 02184
Contact Information: Email pmahoney@c	corcoranmgmt.com <sub>Phone</sub> (781) 849-7111
Check if you are an: owner(s) lessee(s)	
NAME & AFFILIATION OF REPRESENTATIV	E: Frank A. Marinelli, Marinelli Law Office
Address: 439 Washington Street, E	
	@aol.com <sub>Phone</sub> (781) 849-0400
NAME OF ENGINEER AND / OR ARCHITECT	Utile Architecture + Urban Design, CHA Consulting Inc.
	st review this entire package and the Board Rules and procedures. Your signature signifies that you have read the dhere to them.
the statements within my (our) application are t	Board of Zoning Appeals Rules and Regulations and that rue and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge.
Applicant / Petitioner - Date (sign & print)	

Weymouth Zoning Board Application, Revised November 2014

NATURE OF REQUEST
Application is for: X Special Permit Variance Amendment Other:
Applicable Section of Zoning Ordinance (specify Section (s) of the Zoning Ordinance from which relief is sought): Pursuant to Article VIIB "Commercial Corridor Overlay District" and such other applicable provisions of the Weymouth Zoning Ordinance ("WZO") the Applicant seeks Special Permit approval and all other approvals of the Zoning Board necessary for the applicant to construct the residential, mixed use community shown on the filed plans and any revisions thereto.
The above relief and Ordinance sections will be further reviewed after a complete package is submitted. This may be amended by the Planning or Building staff during the application review process after having the benefit of plan to accurately advertise the application before the Board.
PETITIONER'S DESCRIPTION AND NARRATIVE:
To be completed by all Board of Appeals Applicants. Attach additional sheets as necessary.
<ol> <li>Describe what is presently located on the property (use as much detail as possible including all uses and square footage of each use):</li> </ol>
1500 Main Street currently consists of two (2) commercial/industrial buildings and parking lot areas. Situated in the northeast corner of the parcel are two (2) commercial buildings that were previously used for the sale of of roofing materials by Allied Building Products. The southeast corner of the site is wooded area. The remainder of the site is occupied by a parking lot and access drive shared with adjacent land owners.
The applicant seeks to (describe what you want to do on the property in as much detail as possible):
The applicant proposes to demolish the existing buildings and construct a mixed-use project consisting of one (1) multifamily building, and two (2) mixed-use buildings with residential units and commercial space. The buildings will contain 237 apartment units, of which 63% will be studios or one-bedroom units, approximately 6,120 s.f. of commercial space, and approximately 9,650 s.f. of lobby and amenity space. The project site area is 241,415 s.f. An outdoor patio, grill area, and dog run is proposed on the site as well as a resident gym, 5th floor community room and roof deck. The improvements will include some structured parking underneath the residential units, and surface parking. New utilities services including gas, sewer, water, and electric/telecom will be installed as well as drainage infrastructure and associated landscaping.
3. Such a use is permitted by the Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinance under Article (insert Article,
Section of the Zoning Ordinance which permits the proposed use of the property).
Article VIIB Commercial Corridor Overlay District, Section 120-25.15 B(1)
<ol> <li>Are you aware if this property has been previously granted approvals from any Town Board or Commission? If so, please list (provide dates of previous approvals, book and page numbers or any recorded decisions and copies of past decisions).</li> </ol>
Without limitation, Zoning Board Decisions 1858, 1899, 3038
5. Any other additional information as relevant to the Variance or Special Permit:

#### **ZONING COMPUTATION WORKSHEET**

(To be attached with all Board of Zoning Appeals Applications)

The Zoning Computation Worksheet must be completed by the Applicant / Petitioner. All information should be measured and calculated in accordance with the Weymouth Zoning Ordinance (Section 120-51 Table 1 "Schedule District Regulations" and other applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance). The information should be based on engineer/surveyor/architectural prepared plans and or calculations. Further guidance can also be provided by the Board's step-by-step application instructions and by contacting the Planning or Building Department while completing this section.

Data	Required	Existing	Proposed
Use		Industrial Warehouse	Residential/Retail
Lot Area / Size (Sq. Ft.)	30,000 s.f. (min.)	241,415 s.f. (5.54 ac.)	241,415 s.f. (5.54 ac.)
Dwelling Units	N/A	N/A	237
Frontage (ft.)	N/A	114.2 Along Main St (See Note 1) 600.5 Along Trotter (See Note 1)	114.2 Along Main St (See Note 1) 600.5 Along Trotter (See Note 1)
Lot Width (ft.)	N/A	50 ft. (Existing Nonconforming)	50 ft. (Existing Nonconforming)
Front Yard Setback (ft.)	Max: 70 ft. (average) Min: 25 ft. (w/ 5' landscape area)	0.4	70' Average *refer to Sheet A0.12 Drawing #1
Front Yard Setback (ft.)  - corner lots	N/A	N/A	N/A
Side Yard Setback (ft.)	10	63.5 min.	10 (See Note 1)
Side Yard Setback (ft.)	10	63.5 min.	10 (See Note 1)
Rear Yard Setback (ft.)	15	208.8	81.1 (See Note 1 & 2)
Height (ft.) & # of Stories	Max: 70 ft. / 5 stories Min: 45 ft. / 3 stories	28.5'	Building A = <65' (5 Stories) Building B = <65' (5 Stories) Building C = <65' (5 Stories+Basement)
Lot Coverage	15% (min. open space) 60% (max. building) 75% (max. impervious)	59% (open space) 10% (building coverage) 41% (impervious coverage)	28% (open space, excluding wetlands) 26% (building coverage) 71% (impervious coverage)
Off-Street Parking Spaces	SEE NOTE 3	-	143 Spaces around building 139 Spaces within building garage 7 Street parking spaces within property lir
Off-Street Loading Spaces	N/A	-	73 Shared spaces in "tail" (shared with CV 362 Total* None Proposed
Parking Setback	5' along frontage (120-25.17B.1)	23.7 along Main Street Frontage	23.7 along Main Street Frontage
Accessory Structure Setback	N/A		None Proposed
Landscaping	15% (min. open space)	59% (open space)	28% (open space)
Floor Area Ratio	1.25 (max.) within 1000' of commuter rail station	0.10 (23,998 G.F.A)	1.09 (264,104 G.F.A)
Signage			
Other:			

#### NOTES:

<sup>1)</sup> Trotter Road is being used to calculate building setbacks. All other criteria is based on Main Street (Rte 18).

<sup>2)</sup> A 20-foot "No Build" and "No Parking" buffer is provided along any property line abutting an existing residential use property. The building is also located outside of the "Step-Up" buffer which is located within the first 25-feet after the above mentioned 20-foot buffer.

<sup>3) ([36]</sup> Studio x 1.0 unit) + ([113] 1BR x 1.0 unit) + ([81] 2BR x 1.25 units) + ([7] 3BR x 1.25 units) = 259 spaces

#### SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION

To be completed for Special Permit Applications only.

#### SPECIAL PERMIT FINDINGS OF FACT

In the spaces below explain how the adverse effects of the proposal will not outweigh its beneficial impacts to the Town with respect to each of the following considerations per Article XXV, Section 120-122 of the Zoning Ordinance. The Special Permit Granting Authority may approve any such application for a special permit *only* if it finds that, in its judgment, all of the following conditions are met. (Attach additional supporting documentation as necessary).

1. Is the specific site an appropriate location for such a use? Please explain.

The proposed project is keeping with the intent of the Commercial Corridor overlay district by redeveloping an underutilized commercial property and providing residential opportunities within a mixed-use development with the intent of urban design and green building practices. This project seeks LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council by incorporating best practice green building principles. Similarly, the site's proximity to the South Weymouth Commuter Rail will promote the use of public transportation.

2. Will the proposed use / structure be detrimental or adversely affect the character of the neighborhood or town? Please explain.

The proposed use/structure will enhance the appearance of the surrounding area by removing aging warehouse type structures with a state-of-the-art luxury residential, mixed use community. The area will be pedestrian friendly and allow pedestrian flow throughout the site and across the street to the South Weymouth Commuter Rail. The site will incorporate outdoor seating areas, decorative pavers, and thoughtful landscaping.

3. Is there potential for nuisance or serious hazard to vehicles or pedestrians? Please explain.

The area will be pedestrian friendly and allow pedestrian travel throughout the site via sidewalks, crosswalks, and outdoor patio areas. The project is located off of Main Street (Route 18), which is currently being improved by MassDOT. A traffic study was performed by Vanasse & Associates, and it was determined that the project can be accommodated within the confines of the existing transportation infrastructure in a safe, efficient manner with improvements by MassDOT.

4. Will adequate and appropriate facilities, utilities and other public services be provided for the proper operation of the proposed use? Please explain.

Water, sewer, gas, electric, and telecommunication services are all available to the site. Existing services to the site will be abandoned, and new structures will be installed to serve the proposed development.

5. Will the public convenience and welfare be substantially serviced with this proposal? Please

explain.

The public convenience and welfare will be substantially served by the proposed project as it is located in closed proximity to public transportation and direct access to Route 18 provides convenient multi-modal access for residents. The proposed commercial space will serve all residents of the area and promote economic growth. It is anticipated that the proposed project will have a net annual positive revenue to the Town of approximately \$390,000. The proposal is consistent with Weymouth Zoning Ordinance purpose and intent (Article VIIB and I) to encourage housing, permit housing in underlying B-1 District and provide economic development.

Revised: Jan 2016

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS - SECTION 120-40 SPECIAL PERMITS**

# Extension, Alteration or Change of a Privileged Pre-existing, Nonconforming Structure or Use

(Article XIII "Nonconforming Uses" Section 120-40 "Extension or Change")

To be completed by Applicants applying for a Special Permit under Section 120-40 Only.

#### **EXTENSION OR CHANGE FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Any lawful structure or use in existences at the time the Zoning Ordinance was adopted or amended may be extended or altered, provided that no such extension or alteration shall be permitted unless there is a finding by the Board of Zoning Appeals that such change, extension or alteration shall not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming use or structure to the neighborhood.

١.	nonconformities):
2.	Indicate how long the nonconforming aspects of the structure have been in existence:
3.	At the time the nonconformity was created (the structure or use initiated) was it compliant with the current zoning requirements? Past zoning ordinances are available for research at the Town Clerk's office and Planning Department. Past zoning maps are available at the Planning Department.
4.	Explain how the extension, alteration, or change itself complies with the current Zoning Ordinance requirements:
5.	Indicate the number of off-street parking spaces currently provided and to be provided for the proposed structure as extended, altered or changed:
6.	Explain how the use or structure as extended, altered or changed will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing structure:

#### **VARIANCE APPLICATION**

To be completed for Variance applications only.

#### **VARIANCE FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Criteria for approval. The Board may approve any such application for a Variance *only* if it finds that, in its judgment, all of the following conditions are met.

Complete the following questions. Your responses should provide justifications as to why the requested Variance(s) should be granted. Attach additional documentation as necessary.

1.	Describe how a literal enforcement of the provision of the Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinance would involve a substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the petitioner.		
2.	Describe how the hardship is owing to circumstances relating to the soil conditions, shape, and/or topography of the land or structures and how the hardship especially affects said land or structures, but does not affect generally the zoning district in which it is located.		
3.	Describe how desirable relief may be granted without detriment to the public good and without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of the Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinance.		
4.	Describe how the dimensional variance as it relates to floor space, bulk, number of occupants or other relevant measures, if granted, shall be no greater than the minimum necessary to provide relief from the statutory hardship.		

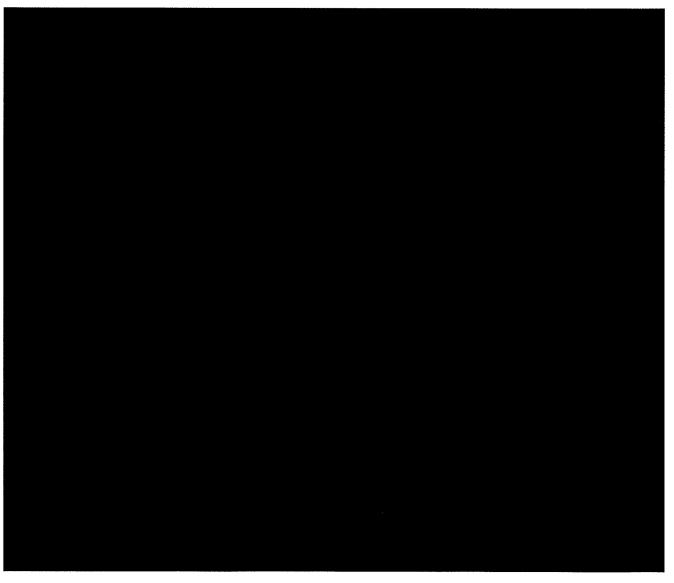
NOTE THAT THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE BOARD TO GRANT A VARIANCE UNLESS ALL OF THE REQUIREMETNS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 40A SECTION 10 OF THE GENERAL LAWS AND IN ARTICLE XXIV SECTION 120-119 OF THE WEYMOUTH ZONING ORDINANCE ARE SATISFIED. EACH OF THE ABOVE FINDINGS MUST BE ANSWERED IN DETAIL. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.

#### ASSIGNMENT OF PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

This Assignment of Purchase and Sale Agreement (this "Assignment") is made as of the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018 by and between **DiVen Properties**, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company, having an address at 1373 Washington Street, Weymouth, Massachusetts 02189, Attention: Steven D. Comoletti ("Assignor") and John M. Corcoran & Co. LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company, having an address at 100 Grandview Road, Suite 203, Braintree, Massachusetts 02184, Attention: Peter Mahoney ("Assignee").

WHEREAS, Assignor, as buyer, and GMS Realty, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company (the "Seller"), as seller, entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement dated July 26, 2018 (the "Contract"), for the purchase and sale of the premises commonly known as 1500 Main Street, Weymouth, Massachusetts, as more particularly described in the Contract (the "Premises"), pursuant to which Contract Seller has agreed to sell and Assignor has agreed to purchase the Premises upon the terms and conditions contained in the Contract; and

WHEREAS, Assignor desires to assign to Assignee, and Assignee desires to acquire, all of the right, title and interest of Assignor in, to and under the Contract on the terms and conditions set forth in this Assignment.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Assignment under seal as of the date first set forth above.

ASSIGNOR:
DiVen Properties, LLC
By: Swan omolesse
Name: STEVEN COMOLETTI
Title: MANAGETZ
ASSIGNEE:
John M. Corcoran & Co. LLC
By:
Name:
Title <sup>-</sup>

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Assignment under seal as of the date first set forth above.

ASSIGNOR:

DiVen	Properties, LLC
Ву:	
Name:	
Title:	
ASSIG	
John N	1. Corcoran & Co. LLC
By:	11 TIP
Name:	Richard Theal
Title:	President

#### PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

#### 1. <u>IDENTIFICATION OF PARTIES</u>

THIS PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into this 26th day of July, 2018 by and between GMS Realty, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company ("Seller") and DiVen Properties, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company. ("Purchaser" or "Buyer"). As used herein, the term "Purchaser" or "Buyer" shall include any nominee or assignee of DiVen Properties, LLC.

#### 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Seller represents that it is the owner of the Property, and in consideration of the mutual undertakings of the parties set forth herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which hereby are acknowledged, Seller hereby agrees to sell and convey to Purchaser, Purchaser's nominee or assignee, and Purchaser hereby agrees to purchase from Seller, the following real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

- (a) That certain real property located in Weymouth, Massachusetts, consisting of approximately five and one-half (5.5) acres of land, known as and numbered at 1500 Main Street, Weymouth, Massachusetts, and shown as Lot 2A on the Subdivision Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference (the "Land"), together with all structures and improvements now thereon, and the fixtures belonging to Seller and used in connection therewith (collectively, the "Improvements"), including as further described in Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 16371, Page 86;
- (b) All right, title, interest, privileges, easements, and appurtenances to the Land, including, without limitation, all development rights, air rights, mineral, mining and water rights, permits and approvals, and all easements, rights-of-way, and other appurtenances used or connected with the beneficial use or enjoyment of the Land, including, but not limited to, access to a public way.

#### 3. THE PURCHASE PRICE



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed under seal by their duly authorized representatives as of the day and year first above written.

SELLER:

GMS Realty, LLC

By: Alan D. Seifer, Manager and authorized agent Dema Seifer She He

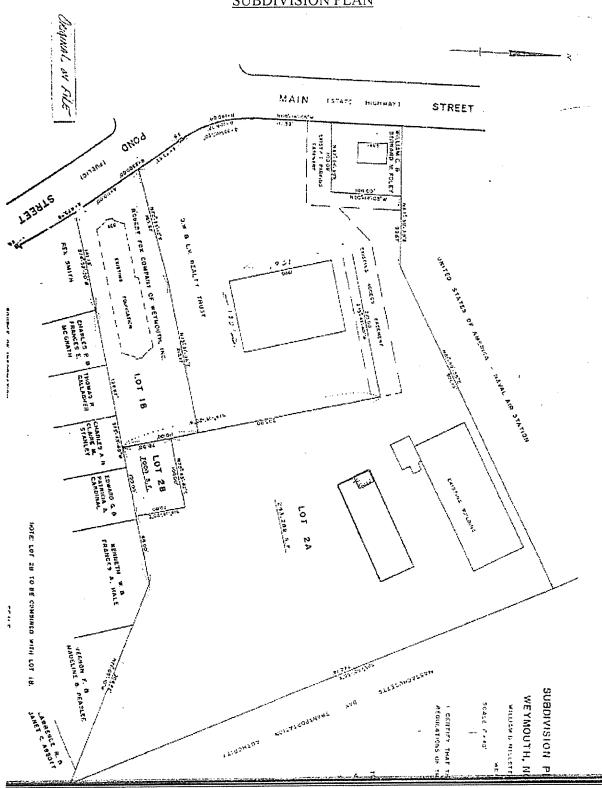
PURCHASER:

DiVen Properties, LLC

Steven D. Comoletti, Manager and

authorized agent

## EXHIBIT A SUBDIVISION PLAN



# Exhibit C to Town of Weymouth Board of Zoning Appeals Application

Applicant: John M. Corcoran & Co., LLC

Date: November 5, 2018

Location: Map 61, Block 627, Lot 25

Property Address: 1500 Main Street, Weymouth, MA 02190

Owner of Record: GMS Realty, Inc.

Address of Owner of Record: 40 Waverly Street, Framingham, MA 01702

GMS Realty, LLC hereby assents to and authorizes the filing of this application.

GMS Realty, LLC, Dually Authorized Signatory Alan Seifer member



# **HOUSING**





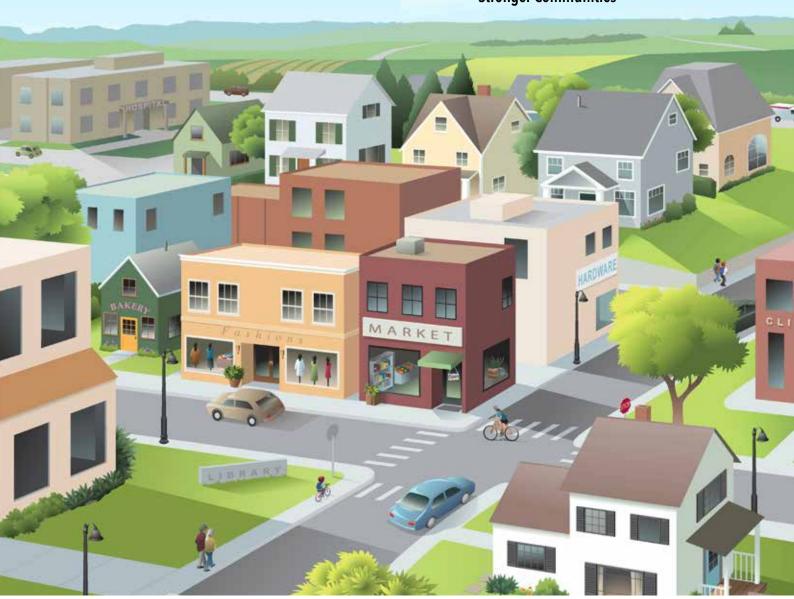








**Economic Growth Workforce Needs Changing Demographics Stronger Communities** 





"The South Shore of Massachusetts is in the enviable position as a choice location to live and do business. But it risks becoming less desirable and less competitive, missing out on some unique opportunities to become a stronger and more diverse regional economy."

> South Shore 2030: Choosing our Future

South Shore 2030: Choosing Our Future laid out six broad strategies to preserve and enhance our high quality of life by building a stronger regional economy. This is the second set of recommendations to implement those strategies. The first report was on infrastructure. We now recommend tangible steps for housing policy to promote the goals of South Shore 2030. Housing intersects two of the six priorities: attracting younger people to the South Shore and strengthening our individual communities as places to work and live.

This is not a research paper. Our Board of Directors has adopted this agenda as a plan of action for the Chamber. For decades, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce has proudly promoted progress and economic growth for the South Shore. Taking a lead on housing continues that tradition.

Economic prosperity and strengthening our communities are widely embraced goals. The individual steps to achieving those goals will not always be universally embraced. That may become most apparent with some of these recommendations, perhaps even the entire premise that more housing is needed. But we cannot build a strong economy or vibrant communities simply by aging in place and discouraging younger people from coming to Massachusetts or the South Shore.

We look forward to working with housing groups, private developers, community leaders, and our local and state officials on these recommendations. Our work on South Shore 2030 won't stop with housing. Helping local communities deal with growth, addressing inadequate infrastructure, and recruiting more businesses to the area are also on the South Shore 2030 agenda.

The Chamber appreciates the work of our hundreds of member volunteers and the support from our members and funding Partners who make the Chamber's work possible. We particularly want to thank the Housing Working Group, which offered advice and insight on this project, as well as Rockland Trust for underwriting the report.



Alan Macdonald Chairman



President

**Peter Forman** 

The Chamber would like to thank the members of the Housing Working Group that presented the Board with these recommendations and Rockland Trust for underwriting the report.

We are fortunate to be part of a region with a strong economy that offers opportunity for businesses and families to thrive and grow. However, the steep rise in housing costs poses a serious challenge to the quality of life on the South Shore. With housing inventory at an all-time low, many families and individuals are priced out of the market. In particular, our younger generations, who are our workforce of the future – as well as those families at lower income levels – are not able to find the places they need to live at an affordable cost. Housing advocates and local and state governments are working hard to address the matter, but this is an issue that has significant implications for the business community as well, and we too must rise to the challenge.

The South Shore Chamber of Commerce's regional development strategy has been tackling the housing issue by bringing together respected business organizations to discuss an approach that positions housing as a tool for future economic growth. As a one of the Steering Committee members of the Chamber's regional development strategy project team, I am pleased to support the progress made on *South Shore 2030: Choosing our Future*. This is an ambitious project that takes an active approach to proactively shaping the economic opportunities for our residents, and thus the vitality of our communities for years to come.

As members of the community, we all have a responsibility to come together and build a foundation that helps the people that live and work here find a place to call home. Rockland Trust is pleased to underwrite this report and support the important work of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce in building that future for the South Shore.



Christopher Oddleifson

**Christopher Oddleifson** *CEO*. Rockland Trust



## Housing Working Group Members

Christopher Oddleifson Rockland Trust

Susan Connelly Massachusetts Housing Partnership

Rachel Tristano South Shore REALTORS, Inc.

Michael Holland M. Holland & Sons Construction, Inc.

Becky Koepnick The Boston Foundation

Brian Molisse Molisse Realty Group LLC

Peter Morin Town of Norwell

Carl Nagy-Koechlin Housing Solutions for Southeastern Massachusetts

William Ohrenberger Ohrenberger, De Lisi & Harris, LLP

Martine Taylor South Shore Habitat for Humanity

Jane Kudcey Town of Weymouth

Tony Green The Pinehills

Ralph Willmer Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Charlene Tyson Massachusetts Housing Partnership

Susan Setterland Coastal Heritage Bank

Office of Senator Patrick O'Connor State of Massachusetts

Office of Senator John Keenan State of Massachusetts





## HOUSING ON THE SOUTH SHORE:

Key to Our Future Economy

Data reveals some early warning signs that regional trends are no longer pointing towards sustainable growth and success. Creating a climate that supports new growth, stronger job creation, and public/private collaboration on community development are essential to preserving the high quality of life on the South Shore. (South Shore 2030: Choosing Our Future)

Our high quality of life on the South Shore and future economic prosperity face a serious challenge. The region's past attitudes about residential growth and housing production may strangle our future. Unless these attitudes change, we could miss a strong opportunity for economic growth. Instead of growth, we could face a downward cycle of job losses, declining services, and lower property values. In choosing our future, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce and South Shore Economic Development Corporation side with investing in future growth and vitality for the region.

The Chamber's economic strategy starts with a premise that desirable communities and a strong workforce help create and attract businesses that will propel regional prosperity. The alternative future as a collection of bedroom communities with long commutes to good jobs, an aging population, and a stagnating economy is less attractive and less sustainable.

According to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, even modest economic growth of 1 percent will require the South Shore to add 44,000 new homes, condominiums, and apartments by the year 2030, over the baseline year of 2010. For comparison, that is equal to 13 times the number of homes at The Pinehills in Plymouth or 10 times the number of homes planned for Union Point, the former Weymouth Air Base. That reads like a big number – however, spread out over 20 years and almost 25 communities, the number is attainable and the impact on local communities is manageable.

The generation born in the wake of World War II is handing over the keys to the generation born between 1980 and 1995. That generational hand-off is happening at a slower pace on the South Shore. By 2030, the South Shore's



population is projected to grow by 19,000, but the over-65 population may double, with the number of households headed by seniors increasing from 24 percent of the total to 37 percent.

Much more must be done to accommodate younger workers, families, and the generation between their early 20s and mid-30s. This is a demographic that is:

- still growing into its peak earning years;
- highly entrepreneurial, eager to start and grow innovative businesses;
- attractive to expanding companies seeking to locate near a source of potential employees; and
- needed to take on civic and business leadership in the coming decades.

While any generalizations are imprecise, members of this generation are more likely than their predecessors to decide where they'd like to live first and then find work, rather than move where the job takes them. In response, businesses are increasingly choosing to locate where they can find a ready supply of talented young workers.

The South Shore struggles to compete for these younger workers with Boston, Cambridge, and other communities seen as centers of greater activity, with interesting and walkable neighborhoods. Concurrently, the Greater Boston area is losing population to other innovative communities out of state - such as Denver, Atlanta, Seattle, Dallas, and Portland, Oregon – that offer more housing choices and lower housing costs.

By choosing our future, we are choosing to compete in the national marketplace for the entrepreneurs, workers, families, and enterprises that can energize our economy and enhance our quality of life.

# **How Housing** Leads to **Economic Growth**



1. Attracting young people who are consuming and spending more replaces the

declining spending activity from our aging population, many of which spend part of their year elsewhere.



2. Downsizing baby boomers scale back but don't retire. They are part of an increasingly

valued workforces and will play an integral and valuable part in our economic future. If we can build homes that keep them here it frees up their equity, increasing their financial flexibility.



3. Transit oriented developments attract young people working in the city that

eventually will become a magnet for companies looking to locate near a strong workforce.



44,000 Homes = 1% Economic Growth

on the South Shore



44,000 Homes Over 20 Years = .4% growth

in housing production annually

25 Communities



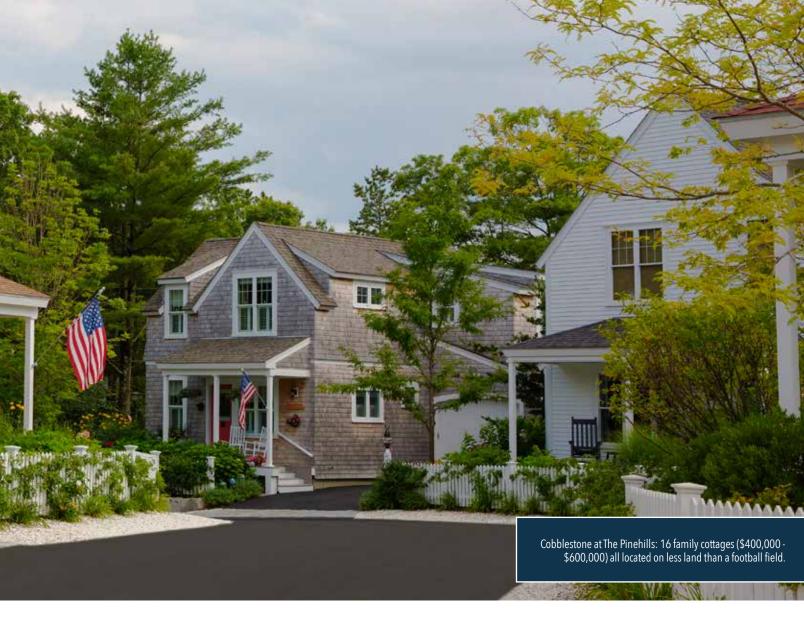
The region's largely suburban orientation and high housing costs negatively impact its competitive position to retain and attract skilled young professional talent. Data showed that the South Shore's labor force will experience significant shortages for key occupations if current trends are not reversed. (South Shore 2030: Choosing Our Future)

# Why We Need to Build

Throughout the South Shore, we see new homes being built and residents may wonder why that isn't enough. The answer is that it is not enough to make the South Shore competitive in attracting a strong workforce or new businesses.

The figures for Massachusetts and Greater Boston, which includes almost the entire South Shore, help to illustrate the problem. In this decade, construction of single-family and multifamily housing is at its lowest point since the 1950s, and our existing housing stock is, on average, among the oldest in the country. Massachusetts' single-family home prices were at the national average in 1980. They have since increased six-fold, the largest increase of any state in the nation.

A reasonable balance between supply and demand will result in a 2 percent vacancy rate at any given time. In Norfolk County, the vacancy rate is 0.9 percent. In Plymouth County, the vacancy rate is a scant 0.7 percent. Area realtors have told us that many baby boomers are reluctant to sell their homes for fear that they won't be able to find the types of smaller homes they want, in more walkable areas. This is different than a depressed market when people are afraid to buy a home for fear they cannot sell the one they are in. This gridlock is tying up family housing, occupied by empty-nesters, and forcing young talent to build their futures elsewhere, leaving our future looking less vibrant.



## What We Need to Build

The short answer to our housing dilemma is to build more housing – a lot more than we are currently on track to build. The longer answer is more complex.

The South Shore needs more housing with smaller footprints built near walkable, vibrant neighborhoods or near transit that will entice a young and diverse population to choose to build their lives here. We must also accommodate the needs of downsizers less interested in agerestricted communities but unable to find alternatives that offer single-floor living in walkable communities.

In Massachusetts, housing production is more often a reflection of zoning requirements rather than market preferences. The result is lower overall production and higher end costs.

The South Shore needs a greater variety of housing types – multifamily (condominiums, townhomes, duplexes), single-family homes on compact lots, and a greater variety of price points to appeal to a wide variety of budgets and family preferences. In other parts of the country, housing preferences are built in response to market preferences and the costs are more appropriate.



# **Building** on Our Strengths

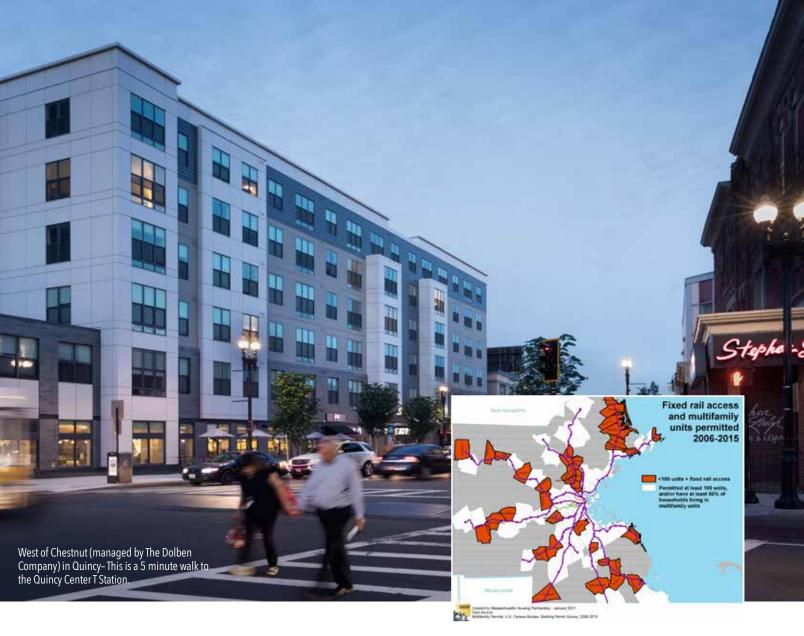
#### Town and Village Centers

The communities of the South Shore are studded with compact commercial centers that have seen their fortunes ebb and flow over many decades. They already offer amenities, including neighborhood restaurants, offices, banks, and small retail establishments. Many of these centers could readily accommodate additional residential development that would, in turn, generate more foot traffic to support existing and new businesses, enhancing the economy and energy of the area.

In many of these town and village centers, local historic and iconic structures have outlived their original purpose. While repurposing former churches, schools, or factories into housing or multi-use buildings may not substantially increase the number of housing units, it offers an opportunity to breathe new life into our communities and to preserve the classic visual identity of our area.

Some South Shore towns already see housing as a tool for revitalizing local neighborhoods. Using the state's 40R zoning incentive, Plymouth's Cordage Park will not only bring that historic property back to life, but will likely stimulate a revitalization of the North Plymouth center. Rockland recently adopted 40R to stimulate growth in its downtown. Weymouth is looking to breathe fresh life along its retail and commercial corridors through zoning changes. Those are all smart, locally initiated actions that are likely to produce more housing, attract talent to the area, and make sections of their town more appealing.

- The Chamber will support local initiatives and private developers to increase housing near community centers, including infrastructure improvements to create stronger, more livable neighborhoods.
- The Chamber is supportive of initiatives to repurpose iconic or historic buildings for new housing.



#### **Transit-Oriented Development**

The return of commuter rail service to the South Shore in the 1990s, long-championed by the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, has already opened the door to a number of major residential projects – from Quincy to Union Point (formerly the Weymouth Air Base) to The Landing in Braintree and Weymouth. There are many other smaller developments along the main corridors and thoroughfares. Commuter boat service has been critical to the success of residential development at the Hingham Shipyard and potentially new growth in Quincy, especially in Squantum at Marina Bay. Other opportunities for growth continue to be found along the Red Line corridor, decades after rapid transit was extended to Quincy Center and, later, to Braintree.

- The Chamber remains committed to transit-oriented development and is working to enhance community development around TODs, including housing, retail, and amenities.
- The Chamber supports efforts to identify and promote additional TOD opportunities.
- The Chamber will support zoning changes where necessary to create appropriate housing options near transit zones.
- The Chamber will promote opportunities to connect existing transportation nodes with nearby residential neighborhoods (e.g., Quincy Adams, Braintree Red Line, and commuter rail).

#### **6 T S**TATIONS

Braintree, Milton, North Quincy, Quincy Adams, Quincy Center, Wollaston

.....

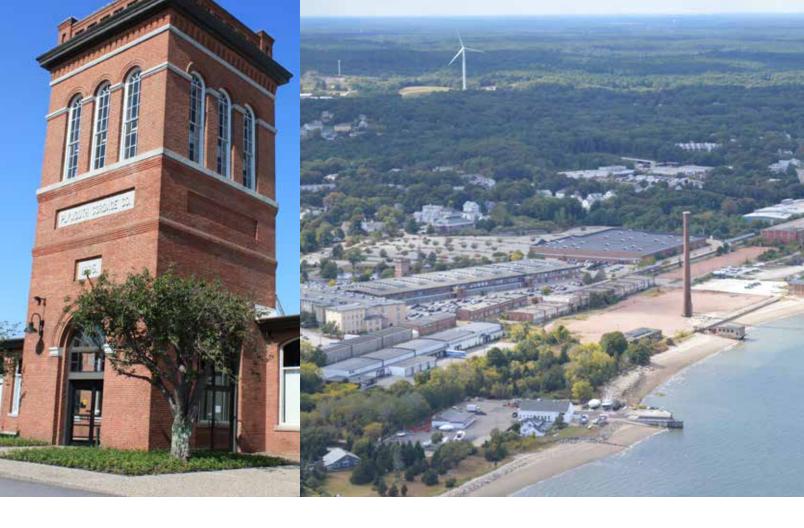
#### **12 COMMUTER RAIL STATIONS**

Abington, Cohasset, East Braintree/ Weymouth Landing, Greenbush, Hanson, Holbrook/Randolph, Kingston, North Scituate, Plymouth, South Weymouth, West Hingham, Whitman

#### **3 COMMUTER FERRY STATIONS**

Hewitt's Cove - Hingham; Pemberton Point - Hull; Quincy

.....



"Plymouth's Cordage Park, site of what was once the world's largest rope factory (opened in the 1800s) is being converted to a dynamic mixed use center with 675 residential units." -- Joseph C. Jannetty, President of Janco Development"

#### **Retail Centers**

The inventory of retail space on the South Shore increased dramatically in the late 20th century, responding to general market trends and to the growing prosperity of the region. But the nature of retailing has changed drastically in the last decade and the pace of change shows no sign of slowing. Those changes will affect the real estate where retail operates and how that real estate is used - or sits idle. The characteristics that originally made many of the malls and shopping centers desirable now make them attractive for residential or mixeduse development: ready access to highways, close to centers of population, and large parcels of land. With flexibility and creativity, they can continue to be economic engines and focal points of our communities.

- The Chamber will work with municipalities and owners of retail space to sustain those properties and, where appropriate, to promote innovative reconfigurations that will better serve the community, including housing on or near the site.
- The Chamber will work with communities looking at mixed-use opportunities in existing retail or commercial zones.

#### Under-utilized Office and Industrial Parcels

Land that was carved out for industrial or office development in the last century but now lies vacant or underutilized can be put to new purpose serving emerging business sectors and the young entrepreneurial generation that we intend to attract. Vacated office buildings are being converted into residences in other states across the country.

• The Chamber will work with municipalities, property owners, and developers to promote housing options within commercial or industrial zones in balance with the Chamber's overall goal of attracting and keeping business in the area.



## How We Need to Build -Smart Growth in Suburban Markets

The South Shore Chamber of Commerce believes that if our region is going to prosper in the coming decades, we need to encourage the growth and retention of a talented workforce to attract new ventures and support the expansion of enterprises that will invest in our region.

A regional housing strategy in the suburbs is as important to Boston's continued economic growth as it is to the South Shore. We believe the often-stated viewpoint that everyone - especially young people - wants to live in a city inaccurately identifies growing housing preferences. It isn't the city that most people crave but the quality of life and convenience of living in interesting communities that offer signs of activity, reasonable access to services, and proximity to good jobs. For many who live some distance from work, access to mass transit is an important requirement. Fortunately, most South Shore communities have the ability to combine housing with interesting centers of activity without losing their individuality or trying to become a major urban area.

We can adapt many of the aspects of Smart Growth, usually an urban development strategy, to suburban residential development on the South Shore. Adopting Smart Growth strategies makes sense for the South Shore. The underlying concepts of Smart Growth - more conscientious land use, walkable communities, and easier commutes – can be applied to the suburban regions.

Our zoning and housing patterns have priced housing out of the reach of many young families. Limited subdivisions of one- and two-acre lots guarantee that most young families will be priced out of the market. Large lot zoning is driven by anti-growth sentiment rather than market demand. Lengthy permitting processes also drive up costs.

Communities that plan ahead to accommodate growth will have greater control over the result and will be better able to realize its benefit.

- The Chamber will encourage and support zoning and planning that encourages smarter land use policies around housing. This includes more compact, walkable neighborhoods with smaller lot sizes, shorter setbacks, smaller house sizes, and usually lower price tags.
- The Chamber also encourages more support for multifamily housing and utility or in-law units.



Smart Growth, as articulated by the American Planning Association, "encourage[s] compact, transit-accessible (where available), pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development patterns and reuse ...." Among the core principles are efficient use of land and infrastructure, creation and/or enhancement of economic value, a greater mix of uses and housing choices, neighborhoods and communities focused around human-scale, mixed use centers, and preservation or creation of a sense of place. (APA Policy Guide on Smart Growth, American Planning Association, April 2012.)

## Affordability and **Economic Growth**



Discussions about housing often focus on government policies for affordability rather

than market demand, attainability, and desirability. If affordability were our only goal, we could achieve it by doing nothing. An aging population, shrinking job base, and longer commute times into Boston will eventually drive down property values on the South Shore. Affordability is not the only challenge in building a stronger economy.

Traditional programs aimed at affordability help individuals but rarely change the housing market. We believe the key to encouraging economic growth comes through moving the housing market. That can be done through greater volume, less costly production, more creative locations, and, most importantly, by introducing a greater mix of housing options.

The traditional large suburban lot with a detached single-family home is not just expensive. It is also a less desirable option for many home-seekers — for young people looking to live in more active neighborhoods or near mass transit, or for older residents planning to downsize.

The region needs more including smaller homes, more compact neighborhoods, and multifamily housing. Those homes may be less costly to build but the objective is to create the housing options that will attract the people who will drive our future economy.

New and more affordable housing stock can create a competitive advantage over other markets in greater Boston. Still, homes will not be inexpensive and will continue to be out of reach of many people who are essential in building a stronger economy. While the Chamber's focus is on growth, it will not ignore the issue of affordability. The Chamber will support existing programs and efforts to provide housing solutions for people who fall below the region's median income.

# Affordability, Growth, and Local Impacts

Apprehension of residential growth is misplaced and the consequences exaggerated. Some communities have intentionally – and many others, unintentionally – adopted policies that discourage young people from moving into their towns, preferring age-restricted housing and resisting more suitable solutions for families. One of the most obvious examples is zoning that requires excessively large building lots and substantial setbacks. A major fear, largely overstated or unfounded, is that families with school-age children will be a net drain on local budgets and services. On the South Shore, the changes have been mixed with some communities seeing enrollment increases in the last decade and others seeing a steady decline.

While the Chamber's recommendations look for market approaches to producing high-quality, less expensive housing, there will still be too many good, hardworking people and families who find the market just beyond their reach.

- The Chamber will The Chamber will actively challenge the "no children" bias that has shaped some of the housing decisions in our communities.
- The Chamber will work with developers and local officials to promote housing that is suitable for
- The Chamber will help towns, private groups, and developers leverage state programs to promote more affordable housing when these projects align with the economic and community development goals of the Chamber.

# How the South Shore Chamber of Commerce is Aligning its Mission

The South Shore Chamber of Commerce is committed to the economic growth and development of the region. The Chamber considers housing an integral part of its strategy. To assure that the organization continues to play a leadership role in promoting housing as part of its economic development agenda, the Chamber is taking several internal steps.

- The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee will include housing policies as part of its longterm advocacy mission to promote state, federal, and local policies that support economic growth and development.
- · The Chamber will work with its affiliate local chambers to support housing and community development opportunities.
- The Chamber's affiliated South Shore Economic Development Corporation will create a Housing Committee to actively support housing as a component of its economic development mission.
- The Chamber's Infrastructure Committee will be asked to incorporate housing growth in its work to promote adequate infrastructure for economic growth on the South Shore.

Increasing the number and variety of housing options on the South Shore – and increasing the overall population - will present its challenges. Traffic, water and sewer capacity, and municipal services will all need to be addressed. But the problems are solvable and can be addressed as we move forward to a more dynamic and prosperous future. The South Shore Chamber of Commerce and our business leaders, together with our municipal leaders, state officials, and other leadership organizations, will cooperate in the years ahead to ensure we have the future we have chosen.

# THE SOUTH SHORE CHAMBER'S HOUSING AGENDA

The South Shore struggles to compete for younger workers and to retain our talented, but aging, baby boomers in part because of housing. When choosing to compete in the national marketplace for entrepreneurs, workers, families, and enterprises that can invigorate our economy, we must address a serious housing challenge.

# Transit-Oriented Developments

- Committed to transit-oriented development and is working to enhance community development around TODs, including housing, retail, and amenities.
- Supports efforts to identify and promote additional TOD opportunities.
- Supports zoning changes where necessary to create appropriate housing options near transit zones.
- Promote opportunities to connect existing transportation nodes with nearby residential neighborhoods (e.g., Quincy Adams, Braintree Red Line, and commuter rail).

# Under-utilized Office and Industrial Parks

 Work with municipalities, property owners, and developers to promote housing options within commercial or industrial zones in balance with the Chamber's overall goal of attracting and keeping business in the area.

#### **Retail Zones**

- Work with municipalities and owners of shopping centers and malls to sustain those properties and, where appropriate, to promote innovative reconfigurations that will better serve the community, including housing on or near the site.
- Work with communities looking at mixed-use opportunities in existing retail or commercial zones.

### Smart Growth Land Use and Zoning

- Supports zoning and planning that includes smarter land use policies around housing. This includes more compact, walkable neighborhoods with smaller lot sizes, shorter setbacks, smaller house sizes, and generally lower price tags.
- Encourages more support for multifamily housing and utility or in-law units.

# Main Streets and Village Centers

- Support local initiatives and private developers to increase housing near community centers, including infrastructure improvements to create stronger, more livable neighborhoods.
- Supports initiatives to repurpose iconic or historic buildings for new housing.

# Affordability, Growth, and Local Impacts

- Actively challenge the "no children" bias that has shaped some of the housing decisions in our communities.
- Work with developers and local officials to promote housing that is suitable for families.
- Help towns, private groups, and developers leverage state programs to promote more affordable housing when these projects align with the economic and community development goals of the Chamber.

### Aligning the South Shore Chamber Mission

To ensure that the organization continues to play a leadership role in promoting housing as part of its economic development agenda, the Chamber is also taking several internal steps.

- The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee will include housing policies as part of its long-term advocacy mission to promote state, federal, and local policies that support economic growth and development.
- The Chamber will work with its affiliate local chambers to support housing and community development opportunities.
- The Chamber's affiliated South Shore Economic Development Corporation will create a Housing Committee to actively support housing
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- The Chamber's Infrastructure Committee will be asked to incorporate housing growth in its work to promote adequate infrastructure for economic growth on the South Shore.















This economic planning project, like so many services to our members, is made possible by our Partners. We want to thank and recognize our Partners from 2016 and 2017 who have helped lead the South Shore.

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#### South Shore Chamber of Commerce Staff

Courtney Bjorgaard, Eric Dykeman, Peter Forman, Tammie Heinrichs, Thomas Kelly, Michelle Lathrop, Heather McCall, Julie Williams

**Property Address - Code** 

Invoice - Date

Description

Amount

2,712.10

2,712.10

PERMITTING - 10/31/2018

John M. Corcoran & Co (1/1/18) -

John M. Corcoran & Co LLC

100 Grandview Road -Suite 205 Braintree, MA 02184 (781) 849-0011

The Bank of New York Mellon

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5-123

**VOID AFTER 90 DAYS** 

\*\*\*\* TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWELVE AND 10/100 DOLLARS

TO THE ORDER OF

10/31/2018

\$2,712.10\*\*\*

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
75 MIDDLE ST
EAST WEYMOUTH, MA 02189

**Property Address - Code** 

Invoice - Date

Description

Amount

**BZA APPLICATION - 10/31/18** 

47.05

47.05

John M. Corcoran & Co (1/1/18) -

John M. Corcoran & Co LLC

100 Grandview Road -Suite 205 Braintree, MA 02184 (781) 849-0011

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10/31/2018

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