

NEEDHAM PLANNING BOARD

Thursday, February 13, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Performance Center

Broadmeadow School

120 Broad Meadow Rd, Needham, MA

AND

Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Meeting ID: **880 4672 5264**

(Instructions for accessing below)

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your phone, download the “Zoom Cloud Meetings” app in any app store or at www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on “Join a Meeting” and enter the following Meeting ID: **880 4672 5264**

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US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 Then enter ID: **880 4672 5264**

Direct Link to meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88046725264>

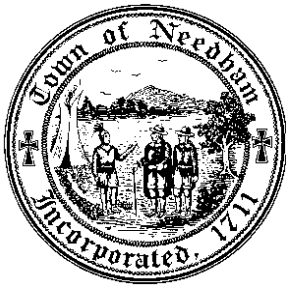
1. Public Hearing:

7:00 p.m. Article 1: Amend Zoning By-law – Multi-Family Overlay District (Base Plan)
 Article 2: Amend Zoning By-law – Map Change For Multi-Family Overlay District (Base Plan)

2. Report from Planning Director and Board members.

3. Correspondence.

(Items for which a specific time has not been assigned may be taken out of order.)



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
Planning Board,
TOWN OF NEEDHAM
NOTICE OF HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 40A, §5, the Needham Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Performance Center, Broadmeadow School, 120 Broadmeadow Road, Needham, MA, as well as by Zoom Web ID Number 880 4672 5264 (further instructions for accessing by zoom are below), regarding certain proposed amendments to the Needham Zoning By-Law to be considered by the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

The article designations given have been assigned by the Planning Board for identification purposes only. An article number will subsequently be established by the Select Board for the Warrant.

Article 1: Amend Zoning By-law – Multi-Family Overlay District (Base Plan)

The proposed zoning amendments would add new Section 3.17 to the Zoning By-Law for the purpose of establishing the “Multi-Family Overlay District.” The purposes of this new overlay district include providing for multi-family housing consistent with the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act, M.G.L. c.40A, §3A. The proposed amendments will allow for multi-family housing within the overlay district that exceeds the density and dimensional requirements applicable within the existing underlying zoning districts. The overlay district will include multiple sub-districts (titled A-1, B, ASB-MF, CSB, HAB and IND), each of which will have its own set of applicable density and dimensional requirements as itemized in tables contained in the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments include parking standards, development standards, affordability requirements, and a process for site plan review that will apply to multi-family housing projects within the new overlay district. The proposed amendments also include revisions to the Section 1.3 (Definitions), Section 7.6. (Planning Board), and Section 7.7 (Design Review) of the Zoning By-Law to address the addition of the new overlay district. For purposes of clarity this particular set of zoning amendments is being referred to as the Base Plan for purposes of complying with the MBTA Communities Act.

Article 2: Amend Zoning By-law – Map Change For Multi-Family Overlay District (Base Plan)

The proposed zoning amendments would amend the Zoning By-Law by amending the Zoning Map to add the “Multi-Family Overlay District” and the A-1, B, ASB-MF, CSB, HAB and IND sub-districts to be contained within the Multi-Family Overlay District.

In particular, the proposed zoning amendments would place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and located directly to the south of Hamlin Lane as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 200, Parcels 1 and 31, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 district; place in the CSB Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Chestnut Street Business and Single Residence B and located directly to the east and west of Chestnut Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 47, Parcels 54, 72, 74-03, 74-04, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, and 91, Needham Town Assessors Map 46, Parcels 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, and 61 and Needham Town Assessors Map 45, Parcel 6, superimposing that district over the existing Chestnut Street Business and Single Residence districts; place in the IND Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Industrial and Single Residence B and located directly to the south and east of Denmark Lane as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 132, Parcel 2, superimposing that district over the existing Industrial and Single Residence B districts; place in the CSB Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Chestnut Street Business and located directly to the east of Garden Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 51, Parcels 17, 20, 22, 23, superimposing that district over the existing Chestnut Street Business district; place in the B Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Business and Single Residence B and located directly to the west of Highland Avenue as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 52, Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, and Needham Town Assessors Map 226, Parcels 56, 57, and 58, superimposing that district over the existing Business and Single Residence B districts; place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and located directly to east of Highland Avenue and north of May Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 53, Parcels 1, 2 and 3, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 district; place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and located directly to the west of Hillside Avenue and north of Rosemary Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 100 Parcels 1, 35, and 36, and Needham Town Assessors Map 101, Parcels 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 district; place in the IND Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Industrial, Hillside Avenue Business, and Single Residence B and located directly to the east of Hillside Avenue and north of Rosemary Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 100, Parcels 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 61, and Needham Town Assessors Map 101, Parcels 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, superimposing that district over the existing Industrial, Hillside Avenue Business, and Single Residence B districts; place in the ASB-MF Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Avery Square Business and Single Residence B and located directly to the west of Highland Avenue and south of West Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 63, Parcel 37, superimposing that district over the existing Avery Square Business and Single Residence B districts; place in the HAB Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Hillside Avenue Business and located directly to the east of Hillside Avenue and north of West Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 99, Parcels 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, superimposing that district over the existing Hillside Avenue district; place in the IND Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Industrial and Single Residence B and located at Crescent Road as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 98, Parcels 40 and 41, and Needham Town Assessors Map 99, Parcels 38, 39, 40, 61, 62, 63, and 88, superimposing that district over the existing Industrial and Single Residence B districts; and place

in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and Single Residence B and located east and west of Highland Avenue at Cottage Avenue as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 70, Parcels 24 and 25, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 and Single Residence B districts. These amendments to the Zoning Map accompany the proposed set of zoning amendments being referred to under Article 1 as the Base Plan for purposes of complying with the MBTA Communities Act.

The complete text of the proposed amendments to the Zoning By-Law and proposed Zoning Map are available on the Town's website at www.needhamma.gov/planning and in the Planning Department office at 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA, 02492.

To view and participate in this virtual meeting on your phone, download the “Zoom Cloud Meetings” app in any app store or at www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on “Join a Meeting” and enter the following Meeting ID 880 4672 5264

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Direct Link to meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88046725264>

Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and make their views known to the Planning Board. Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment through Zoom or through calling in, or by attending the in-person meeting. You may also send comments in advance of the public hearing to planning@needhamma.gov.

Persons interested are encouraged to call the Planning Board office (781-455-7550) for more information.

This legal notice is also posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website at (<http://masspublicnotices.org/>).

Needham Hometown Weekly, January 30, 2025 and February 6, 2025.

ARTICLE 1: AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – MULTI-FAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT (BASE COMPLIANCE PLAN)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Needham Zoning By-Law as follows:

1. By amending Section 1.3, Definitions by adding the following terms:

Applicant – A person, business, or organization that applies for a building permit, Site Plan Review, or Special Permit.

2. By amending Section 2.1, Classes of Districts by adding the following after ASOD Avery Square Overlay District:

MFOD – Multi-family Overlay District

3. By inserting a new Section 3.17 Multi-family Overlay District:

3.17 Multi-family Overlay District

3.17.1 Purposes of District

The purposes of the Multi-family Overlay District include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Providing Multi-family housing in Needham, consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 40A (the Zoning Act), Section 3A;
- (b) Supporting vibrant neighborhoods by encouraging Multi-family housing within a half-mile of a Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) commuter rail station; and
- (c) Establishing controls which will facilitate responsible development and minimize potential adverse impacts upon nearby residential and other properties.

Toward these ends, Multi-family housing in the Multi-family Overlay District is permitted to exceed the density and dimensional requirements that normally apply in the underlying zoning district(s) provided that such development complies with the requirements of this Section 3.17.

3.17.2 Scope of Authority

In the Multi-family Overlay District, all requirements of the underlying district shall remain in effect except where the provisions of Section 3.17 provide an alternative to such requirements, in which case these provisions shall supersede. If an Applicant elects to develop Multi-family housing in accordance with Section 3.17, the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District shall apply to such development. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, where the provisions of the underlying district are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District, the terms of the Multi-family Overlay District shall apply.

If the applicant elects to proceed under the zoning provisions of the underlying district (meaning the applicable zoning absent any zoning overlay) or another overlay district, as applicable, the zoning bylaws applicable in such district shall control and the provisions of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not apply.

3.17.2.1 Subdistricts

The Multi-family Overlay District contains the following sub-districts, all of which are shown on the MFOD Boundary Map and indicated by the name of the sub-district:

- (a) A-1
- (b) B
- (c) ASB-MF
- (d) CSB
- (e) HAB
- (f) IND

3.17.3 Definitions

For purposes of this Section 3.17, the following definitions shall apply.

Affordable housing – Housing that contains one or more Affordable Housing Units as defined by Section 1.3 of this By-Law. Where applicable, Affordable Housing shall include Workforce Housing Units, as defined in this Subsection 3.17.3 Definitions.

As of right – Development that may proceed under the zoning in place at time of application without the need for a special permit, variance, zoning amendment, waiver, or other discretionary zoning approval.

Compliance Guidelines – *Compliance Guidelines for Multi-Family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act* as further revised or amended from time to time.

EOHLC – The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, or EOHLC's successor agency.

Multi-family housing – A building with three or more residential dwelling units or two or more buildings on the same lot with more than one residential dwelling unit in each building and that complies with the requirements of M.G.L. c.40A, §3A and the rules and requirements thereunder.

Open space – Contiguous undeveloped land within a parcel boundary.

Parking, structured – A structure in which parking spaces are accommodated on multiple stories; a parking space area that is underneath all or part of any story of a structure; or a parking space area that is not underneath a structure, but is entirely covered, and has a parking surface at least eight feet below grade. Structured parking does not include surface parking or carports, including solar carports.

Parking, surface – One or more parking spaces without a built structure above the space. A solar panel designed to be installed above a surface parking space does not count as a built structure for the purposes of this definition.

Residential dwelling unit – A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Section 3A – Section 3A of the Zoning Act.

Site plan review authority – The Town of Needham Planning Board.

Special permit granting authority – The Town of Needham Planning Board.

Sub-district – An area within the MFOD that is geographically smaller than the MFOD district and differentiated from the rest of the district by use, dimensional standards, or development standards.

Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) – A list of qualified Affordable Housing Units maintained by EOHLC used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law.

Workforce housing unit – Affordable Housing Unit as defined by Section 1.3 of this By-Law but said Workforce Housing Unit shall be affordable to a household with an income of between eighty (80) percent and 120 percent of the area median income as defined.

3.17.4 Use Regulations

3.17.4.1 Permitted Uses

The following uses are permitted in the Multi-family Overlay District as a matter of right:

- (a) Multi-family housing.

3.17.4.2 Accessory Uses

The following uses are considered accessory as of right to any of the permitted uses in Subsection 3.17.4.1:

- (a) Parking, including surface parking and structured parking on the same lot as the principal use.
- (b) Any uses customarily and ordinarily incident to Multi-family housing, including, without limitation, residential amenities such as bike storage/parking, a swimming pool, fitness facilities and similar amenity uses.

3.17.5 Dimensional Regulations

3.17.5.1 Lot Area, Frontage and Setback Requirements

The following lot area, frontage and setback requirements shall apply in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts listed below. Buildings developed under the regulations of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be further subject to the maximum lot area, frontage, and setback requirements of the underlying districts, as contained in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.1 Minimum Lot Area and Frontage, Subsection 4.4.4 Front Setback, Subsection 4.6.1 Basic Requirements, and Subsection 4.6.2 Front and Side Setbacks.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Minimum Lot Area (square feet)	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Minimum Lot Frontage (feet)	120	80	80	80	80	80
Minimum Front Setback (feet) from the	25	10	Minimum 10	20 feet for buildings with	20	25

front property line			Maximum 15 ^e	frontage on Chestnut Street 10 feet for all other buildings		
Minimum Side and Rear Setback (feet)	20	10 ^{a, b}	10 ^{a, c}	20 (side) ^{a, b, d}	20 ^{a, b}	20 ^{a, b}

- (a) The requirement of an additional 50-foot side or rear setback from a residential district as described in Subsection 4.4.8 Side and Rear Setbacks Adjoining Residential Districts or Subsection 4.6.5 Side and Rear Setbacks Adjoining Residential Districts shall not apply.
- (b) Any surface parking, within such setback, shall be set back 10 feet from an abutting residential district and such buffer shall be suitably landscaped.
- (c) The rear and side setbacks are 20 feet along the MBTA right-of-way. With respect to any lot partially within an underlying residential district, (i) no building or structure for a multi-family residential use shall be placed or constructed within 110 feet of the lot line of an abutting lot containing an existing single family residential structure and (ii) except for access driveways and sidewalks, which are permitted, any portion of the lot within said residential district shall be kept open with landscaped areas, hardscaped areas, outdoor recreation areas (e.g., swimming pool) and/or similar open areas.
- (d) On the west side of Chestnut Street, the rear setback shall be 20 feet. On the east side of Chestnut Street, the rear setback shall be 30 feet.
- (e) Seventy percent (70%) of the main datum line of the front facade of the building shall be set back no more than 15 feet, except that periodic front setbacks greater than fifteen (15) feet are allowed if activated by courtyards, landscaping, drive aisles, amenity areas, or other similar site design features that enhance the streetscape. In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board if less than seventy percent (70%) of the main datum line front facade of the building is set back 15 feet.

3.17.5.2 Building Height Requirements

The maximum building height in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts shall be as shown below. Buildings developed under the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be further subject to the maximum height regulations of the underlying district, as contained in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.2 Maximum Building Bulk, Subsection 4.4.3 Height Limitation, Subsection 4.6.1 Basic Requirements, and Subsection 4.6.4 Height Limitation.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Maximum Building Height (stories)	3.0	3.0	3.0 ^c	3.0	3.0	3.0

Maximum Building Height (ft) ^{a,b}	40	40	40 ^c	40	40	40
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- (a) Exceptions. The limitation on height of buildings shall not apply to chimneys, ventilators, towers, silos, spires, stair overruns, elevator overruns, mechanical equipment, roof parapets, architectural screening, or other ornamental features of buildings, which features (i) are in no way used for living purposes; (ii) do not occupy more than 25% of the gross floor area of the building and (iii) do not project more than 15 feet above the maximum allowable height.
- (b) Exceptions: Renewable Energy Installations. The Site Plan Review Authority may waive the height and setbacks in Subsection 3.17.5.2 Building Height Requirements and Subsection 3.17.5.1 Lot Area, Frontage and Setback Requirements to accommodate the installation of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, living, and other eco-roofs, energy storage, and air-source heat pump equipment. Such installations shall be appropriately screened, consistent with the requirements of the underlying district; shall not create a significant detriment to abutters in terms of noise or shadow; and must be appropriately integrated into the architecture of the building and the layout of the site. The installations shall not provide additional habitable space within the development.
- (c) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board for a height of four stories and 50 feet, provided that the fourth story along Highland Avenue and West Street incorporates one or more of the following design elements: (i) a pitched roof having a maximum roof pitch of 45 degrees; (ii) a fourth story recessed from the face of the building by a minimum of 12 feet; and/or (iii) such other architectural design elements proposed by the Applicant and approved by the Planning Board during the Special Permit process.

3.17.5.3 Building Bulk and Other Requirements

The maximum floor area ratio or building coverage and the maximum number of dwelling units per acre, as applicable, in the Multi-family Overlay District sub-districts shall be as shown below, except that the area of a building devoted to underground parking shall not be counted as floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio or building coverage, as applicable. Buildings developed under the regulations of the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be subject to any other limitations on floor area ratio or building bulk in Subsection 4.3.1 Table of Regulations, Subsection 4.4.2 Maximum Building Bulk, and Subsection 4.6.3 Maximum Lot Coverage.

	A-1	B	ASB-MF	CSB	HAB	IND
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.50	N/A	1.3 ^{b, c}	0.70	0.70	0.50
Maximum Building Coverage (%)	N/A	25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum Dwelling Units per Acre ^a	18	N/A	44 ^d	18	N/A	N/A

- (a) The total land area used in calculating density shall be the total acreage of the lot on which the development is located.
- (b) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board for an FAR of up to 1.7.
- (c) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the following shall not be counted as floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio: (i) interior portions of a building devoted to off-street parking; (ii) parking garages, structured parking or deck/rooftop parking that are screened from Highland Avenue as required by Section 3.17.6 inclusive of any waiver thereof and from West Street in a manner compatible with the architecture of the building. In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the Applicant may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board to exclude additional areas from floor area for purposes of determining the maximum floor area ratio.
- (d) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, Multi-family housing may exceed the maximum of 44 dwelling units per acre by special permit.

3.17.5.4 Multiple Buildings on a Lot

In the Multi-family Overlay District, more than one building devoted to Multi-family housing may be located on a lot, provided that each building complies with the requirements of Section 3.17 of this By-Law.

3.17.5.5 Use of Dwelling Units

Consistent with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' Compliance Guidelines for Multi-family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act, and notwithstanding anything else contained in the Zoning By-Law to the contrary, Multi-family housing projects shall not be required to include units with age restrictions, and units shall not be subject to limit or restriction concerning size, the number or size of bedrooms, a cap on the number of occupants, or a minimum age of occupants.

3.17.6 Off-Street Parking

- (a) The minimum number of off-street parking spaces shall be one space per dwelling unit for all subdistricts within the Multi-family Overlay District.
- (b) Parking areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Subsection 5.1.3 Parking Plan and Design Requirements. The remaining provisions of Section 5.1 Off Street Parking Regulations shall not apply to projects within the Multi-family Overlay District.
- (c) In the ASB-MF subdistrict, the façade(s) of all parking garages, structured parking and deck/rooftop parking visible from Highland Avenue shall be designed to be generally indistinguishable from the façade(s) of the residential portion of the building(s), and shall allow no view of parked vehicles from Highland Avenue except where such view is intermittent and incidental to the operation of the parking area, such as a view afforded by the opening of an automated garage door.
- (d) Enclosed parking areas shall comply with Subsection 4.4.6 Enclosed Parking.
- (e) No parking shall be allowed within the front setback. Parking shall be on the side or to the rear of the building, or below grade.

- (f) The minimum number of bicycle parking spaces shall be one space per dwelling unit.
- (g) Bicycle storage. For a multi-family development of 25 units or more, no less than 25% of the required number of bicycle parking spaces shall be integrated into the structure of the building(s) as covered spaces.

3.17.7 Development Standards

- (a) Notwithstanding anything in the Zoning By-Law outside of this Section 3.17 to the contrary, Multi-family housing in the Multi-family Overlay District shall not be subject to any special permit requirement.
- (b) Buildings shall be designed with due regard to their relationship to open spaces, existing buildings, and community assets in the area.
- (c) Building entrances shall be available from one or more streets on which the building fronts and, if the building fronts Chestnut Street, Garden Street, Highland Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Rosemary Street, or West Street, the primary building entrance must be located on at least one such street.
- (d) The site shall be designed so that all collection and storage areas for residential refuse shall be internal to the building(s), or otherwise shall not be visible from any public way and appropriately screened from abutting properties, and adequate management and removal of refuse shall be provided for.
- (e) Site arrangement and driveway layout shall provide sufficient access for emergency and service vehicles, including fire, police, and rubbish removal.
- (f) Plantings shall be provided and include species that are native or adapted to the region. Plants on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, as may be amended, are prohibited.
- (g) All construction shall be subject to the current town storm water bylaws, regulations, and policies along with any current regulations or policies from DEP, state, and federal agencies.
- (h) Control measures shall be employed to mitigate any substantial threat to water quality or soil stability, both during and after construction.
- (i) There shall be adequate water, sewer, and utility service provided to serve the project.
- (j) Off-site glare from headlights shall be controlled through arrangement, grading, fences, and planting. Off-site light over-spill from exterior lighting shall be controlled through luminaries selection, positioning, and mounting height so as to not add more than one foot candle to illumination levels at any point off-site.
- (k) Pedestrian and vehicular movement within and outside the project site shall be protected, through selection of egress points, provision for adequate sight distances, and through reasonable mitigation measures for traffic attributable to the project.
- (l) Site arrangements and grading shall minimize to the extent practicable the number of removed trees 8" trunk diameter or larger, and the volume of earth cut and fill.

- (m) No retaining wall shall be built within the required yard setback except a retaining wall with a face not greater than four (4) feet in height at any point and a length that does not exceed forty (40) percent of the lot's perimeter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, retaining walls may graduate in height from four (4) to seven (7) feet in height when providing access to a garage or egress entry doors at the basement level, measured from the basement or garage floor to the top of the wall. In such cases, the wall is limited to seven (7) feet in height for not more than 25% of the length of the wall.
- (n) Retaining walls with a face greater than twelve (12) feet in height are prohibited unless the Applicant's engineer certifies in writing to the Building Commissioner that the retaining wall will not cause an increase in water flow off the property and will not adversely impact adjacent property or the public.
- (o) Construction activity shall be consistent with Section 3.8 of the General By-Laws and any reasonable conditions on construction activity that are warranted at a particular site and included in the applicable site plan approval, including but not limited to hours during which construction activity may take place, the movement of trucks or heavy equipment on or off the site, measures to control dirt, dust, and erosion and to protect existing vegetation to be preserved on the site.

Special Development Standards for the A-1 Subdistrict

The following requirements apply to all development projects within the A-1 subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District:

- (a) 4.3.2 Driveway Openings
- (b) 4.3.3 Open Space
- (c) 4.3.4 Building Location, with the substitution of "Multifamily Dwelling" for "apartment house."

Special Development Standards for the B and IND Subdistricts of the Multi-Family Overlay District:

- (a) The requirements of the first paragraph of 4.4.5 Driveway Openings shall apply to all development projects within the Multi-family Overlay District within the B and IND subdistricts.

Special Development Standards for the ASD-MF Subdistrict of the Multi-Family Overlay District:

- (a) Multi-family housing in the ASD-MF subdistrict shall employ existing curb cuts on Highland Avenue and West Street to the extent feasible. Existing curb cuts may be improved, reconstructed and modified. Additional curb cuts may be added subject to site plan review.

3.17.8 Affordable Housing

Any multi-family building with six or more dwelling units shall include Affordable Housing Units as defined in Section 1.3 of this By-Law and the requirements below shall apply.

3.17.8.1 Provision of Affordable Housing

Not fewer than 12.5% of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of Affordable Housing Units required in a proposed development, any fractional unit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

In the event that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) determines that the calculation detailed above does not comply with the provisions of Section 3A of MGL c.40A, the following standard shall apply:

Not fewer than 10% of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of Affordable Housing Units required in a proposed development, any fractional unit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall be deemed to constitute a whole unit.

3.17.8.2 Affordable Housing Development Standards

Affordable Units shall be:

- (a) Integrated with the rest of the development and shall be compatible in design, appearance, construction, and quality of exterior and interior materials with the other units and/or lots;
- (b) Dispersed throughout the development;
- (c) Located such that the units have equal access to shared amenities, including light and air, and utilities (including any bicycle storage and/or Electric Vehicle charging stations) within the development;
- (d) Located such that the units have equal avoidance of any potential nuisances as market-rate units within the development;
- (e) Distributed proportionately among unit sizes; and
- (f) Distributed proportionately across each phase of a phased development.
- (g) Occupancy permits may be issued for market-rate units prior to the end of construction of the entire development provided that occupancy permits for Affordable Units are issued simultaneously on a pro rata basis.

3.17.9 Site Plan Review

3.17.9.1 Applicability

Site Plan Review, as provided for in this Section 3.17, is required for all Multi-family housing projects within the Multi-Family Overlay District. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in the Zoning By-Law, except as expressly provided for in this Section 3.17, Multi-family housing projects are not subject to site plan or special permit review pursuant to Section 7.

3.17.9.2 Submission Requirements

The Applicant shall submit the following site plan and supporting documentation as its application for Site Plan Review, unless waived in writing by the Planning and Community Development Director:

- (a) Locus plan;

- (b) Location of off-site structures within 100 feet of the property line;
- (c) All existing and all proposed building(s) showing setback(s) from the property lines;
- (d) Building elevation, to include penthouses, parapet walls and roof structures; floor plans of each floor; cross and longitudinal views of the proposed structure(s) in relation to the proposed site layout, together with an elevation line to show the relationship to the center of the street;
- (e) Existing and proposed contour elevations in one-foot increments;
- (f) Parking areas, including the type of space, dimensions of typical spaces, and width of maneuvering aisles and landscaped setbacks;
- (g) Driveways and access to site, including width of driveways and driveway openings;
- (h) Facilities for vehicular and pedestrian movement;
- (i) Drainage;
- (j) Utilities;
- (k) Landscaping including trees to be retained and removed;
- (l) Lighting;
- (m) Loading and unloading facilities;
- (n) Provisions for refuse removal; and
- (o) Projected traffic volumes in relation to existing and reasonably anticipated conditions based on standards from the Institute of Transportation Engineers and prepared by a licensed traffic engineer and including, if applicable, recommended traffic mitigation measures based on the traffic attributable to a particular project.

3.17.9.3 Timeline

Upon receipt of an application for Site Plan Review for a project in the MFOD, the Site Plan Review Authority shall transmit a set of application materials to the Department of Public Works, Town Engineer, Police Department, Fire Department, Design Review Board, and to any other Town agency it deems appropriate, which shall each have thirty five (35) days to provide any written comment. Upon receipt of an application, the Site Plan Review Authority shall also notice a public hearing in accordance with the notice provisions contained in M.G.L. c.40A, §11. Site plan review shall be performed expeditiously and in general shall be completed, with a decision rendered and filed with the Town Clerk, no later than 6 months after the date of submission of the application.

3.17.9.4 Site Plan Approval

Site Plan approval for uses listed in Subsection 3.17.3 Permitted Uses shall be granted upon determination by the Site Plan Review Authority that the following criteria have been satisfied. The Site Plan Review Authority may impose reasonable conditions, at the expense of the applicant, to ensure that these criteria have been satisfied.

- (a) the Applicant has submitted the information as set forth in Subsection 3.17.9.2 Submission Requirements; and
- (b) the project as described in the application meets the dimensional and density requirements contained in Subsection 3.17.5 Dimensional Regulations, the parking requirements contained in Subsection 3.17.6 Off-Street Parking, the development standards contained in Subsection 3.17.7 Development Standards, and Subsection 3.17.8.2 Affordable Housing Development Standards.

3.17.9.5 Waivers

When performing site plan review, the Planning Board may waive the requirements of Subsection 3.17.6 hereof and/or Subsection 5.1.3 Parking Plan and Design Requirements, or particular submission requirements.

When performing site plan review for a Multi-family Housing project that involves preservation of a structure listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Massachusetts Register of Historical Places, the Inventory of Historic Assets for the Town of Needham, or is in pending for inclusion in any such register or inventory, the Planning Board as part of site plan review may reduce the applicable front, side or rear setbacks in this Section 3.17 by up to 40%.

3.17.9.6 Project Phasing

An Applicant may propose, in a Site Plan Review submission, that a project be developed in phases subject to the approval of the Site Plan Review Authority, provided that the submission shows the full buildout of the project and all associated impacts as of the completion of the final phase. However, no project may be phased solely to avoid the provisions of Subsection 3.17.8 Affordable Housing.

3.17.10 Design Guidelines

The Planning Board may adopt and amend, by simple majority vote, Design Guidelines which shall be applicable to all rehabilitation, redevelopment, or new construction within the Multi-family Overlay District. Such Design Guidelines must be objective and not subjective and may contain graphics illustrating a particular standard or definition to make such standard or definition clear and understandable. The Design Guidelines for the Multi-family Overlay District shall be as adopted by the Planning Board and shall be available on file in the Needham Planning Department.

3.17.11 Special Permits

In those specific occasions where this Section 3.17 authorizes relief in the form of a special permit only, applications shall be reviewed and decided by the Planning Board in accordance with Section 7.5.2.

- 4. By amending the first sentence of Section 7.6.1, Special Permit Granting Authority, to add Section 3.17 to the list of Sections for which the Planning Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority, so that this sentence reads as follows:

The Planning Board shall act as a Special Permit Granting Authority only where so designated in Sections 3.4, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17, 4.2.10, 4.2.11, 4.2.12, 4.4.5, 4.4.9, 4.4.10, 5.1.1.6, 6.6, 6.8 and 7.4 of this By-Law.

- 5. By amending the first paragraph of Section 7.7.2.2, Authority and Specific Powers, to add site plan reviews under Section 3.17 to the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board, so that this paragraph reads as follows:

The Design Review Board shall review requests for site plan review and approval submitted in accordance with Section 3.17 Multi-family Overlay District, Section 7.4 Site Plan Review and requests for special permits in accordance with Section 4.2.11 Planned Residential Development, Section 4.2.10 Flexible Development and Section 6.11 Retaining Walls and, for a minor project that only involves a change in the exterior facade of a building in the Center Business District, shall review and may approve such facade change.

6. By amending Section 7.7.3, Procedure, by inserting in the second paragraph, after the second sentence, a new sentence to read as follows:

Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a final advisory design review report shall be sent both to the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a site plan review is required under Section 3.17.

so that this paragraph reads as follows:

Within twenty (20) days of receipt of a Design Review application, the Design Review Board shall hold a meeting, to which the applicant shall be invited, for the purpose of conducting a review of the proposed project or activity. Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a preliminary design review report shall be sent to both the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a special permit is required under Sections 7.4, 4.2.11 and 4.2.10. Within fifteen (15) days of the meeting, a final advisory design review report shall be sent both to the applicant and to the Planning Board, when a site plan review is required under Section 3.17. However, if the proposed project or activity involves only a building permit or sign permit from the Building Commissioner, or is a “Minor Project” under Site Plan Review (all as described in Subsection 7.7.2.2), no preliminary report is required and the written advisory report of the Design Review Board to the applicant and the Building Commissioner shall be a final report.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – MAP CHANGE FOR MULTI-FAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT (BASE COMPLIANCE PLAN)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Needham Zoning By-Law by amending the Zoning Map as follows:

- (a) Place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and located directly to the south of Hamlin Lane as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 200, Parcels 1 and 31, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 district, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the easterly sideline of Greendale Avenue and the northerly sideline of Charles River; thence running westerly by the easterly line of Greendale Avenue, four hundred forty-two and 36/100 (442.36) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the southerly line of Hamlin Lane, five hundred thirty-five and 44/100 (535.44) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the southerly line of Hamlin Lane, twenty and 22/100 (20.22) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the land of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State Highway I-95, five hundred thirty-nine 11/100 (539.11) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the land of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State Highway I-95, four hundred sixty-six (466) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the northerly sideline of Charles River, two hundred seventy-six (276) to the point of beginning.

- (b) Place in the CSB Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Chestnut Street Business and Single Residence B and located directly to the east and west of Chestnut Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 47, Parcels 54, 72, 74-03, 74-04, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, and 91, Needham Town Assessors Map 46, Parcels 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, and 61 and Needham Town Assessors Map 45, Parcel 6, superimposing that district over the existing Chestnut Street Business and Single Residence districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A and the southerly sideline of Keith Place; thence running southeasterly by the southerly sideline of Keith Place to the intersection with northerly sideline of Chestnut Street; southwesterly by the northerly sideline of Chestnut Street to the intersection with northerly sideline of Freeman Place; northeasterly to a point on the southerly sideline of Chestnut Street, approximately four hundred and ninety-five 88/100 (495.88) feet from the intersection with southerly sideline of School Street; southeasterly by the southerly property line of Deaconess-Glover Hospital Corporation, one hundred and eighty-seven 68/100 (187.68) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property line of Deaconess-Glover Hospital Corporation, ninety-six 74/100 (96.74) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the westerly property line of Chaltanya Kadem and Shirisha Meda, eighty-two 80/100 (82.80) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the westerly property line of Huard, eighty-two 80/100 (82.80) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the westerly property line of Reidy, ninety-seven 40/100 (97.40) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of L. Petrini & Son Inc, fifteen 82/100 (15.82) feet, more or less; southwesterly by easterly property line of L. Petrini & Son Inc, one hundred and seventy-seven 77/100 (177.77) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly property line of L. Petrini & Son Inc, one hundred and two 59/100 (102.59) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property line of L. Petrini & Son Inc, fifty 16/100 (50.16) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly property line of L. Petrini & Son Inc, seven 39/100 (7.39) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property of Briarwood Property LLC, seventy-five (75.00) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly property of Briarwood Property LLC, one hundred (100) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property of Briarwood Property LLC, two hundred and forty-nine 66/100 (249.66) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the southerly property of Briarwood

Property LLC, two hundred ninety-three (293.28) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property of Veterans of Foreign Wars, one hundred and fifty (150) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the southerly property line of Veterans of Foreign Wars, eighty-five (85) feet, more or less; southwest by the easterly property of M.B.T.A, one hundred and sixty (160) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly sideline of Junction Street to intersection with westerly sideline of Chestnut; southwesterly by the westerly sideline of Chestnut Street to intersection with northerly sideline of property of M.B.T.A; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Castanea Dentata LLC, two hundred and twenty-eight 81/100 (228.81) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Castanea Dentata LLC, one hundred and eight 53/100 (108.53) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Castanea Dentata LLC, one hundred and thirty-six 6/100 (136.06) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Castanea Dentata LLC, one hundred and ten 10/100 (110.10) feet, more or less; thence running northeasterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A. to the point of beginning.

- (c) Place in the IND Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Industrial and Single Residence B and located directly to the south and east of Denmark Lane as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 132, Parcel 2, superimposing that district over the existing Industrial and Single Residence B districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A. and the southerly sideline of Great Plain Ave; thence running southwesterly by the westerly line of M.B.T.A, four hundred thirty-seven 24/100 (437.24) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, one hundred and eleven 17/100 (111.17) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, two hundred (200) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, one hundred and thirty-nine 75/100 (139.75) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of Maple Street, one hundred and thirty-five (135) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, one hundred and forty (140) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, fifteen 20/100 (15.2) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, two 44/100 (2.44) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, thirty-three 35/100 (33.35) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, seventy-nine (79) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, thirteen 28/100 (13.28) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, forty-seven 50/100 (47.50) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Denmark Lane Condominium, eighty-one 91/100 (81.91) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the southerly sideline of Great Plain Ave, twelve 28/100 (12.28) feet to the point of beginning.

- (d) Place in the CSB Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Chestnut Street Business and located directly to the east of Garden Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 51, Parcels 17, 20, 22, 23, superimposing that district over the existing Chestnut Street Business district said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A. and the northerly sideline of Great Plain Ave; thence running southwesterly by the northerly sideline of Great Plain Ave, nine 32/100 (9.32) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the westerly property line of Town of Needham, fifty-three 17/100 (53.17) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the westerly property line of Town of Needham, fifty-six 40/100 (56.40) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the westerly property line of Town of Needham, fifty-six 92/100 (56.92) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the westerly property line of Town of Needham, on an arch length one hundred and twelve 99/100 (112.99) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the westerly property line of Town of Needham, fifteen 10/100

(15.10) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the westerly property line of Town of Needham, one hundred and thirty-eight 83/100 (138.83) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Town of Needham, thirty-three 42/100 (33.42) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Eaton Square Realty LLC, forty (40) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Eaton Square Realty LLC, eighty-one 99/100 (81.99) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Eaton Square Realty LLC, fifty-eighty 31/100 (58.31) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of Garden Street to intersection with May Street; northeasterly by the southerly sideline of May Street, sixty-one 33/100 (61.33) feet, more or less; southwest by the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A to the point of beginning.

- (e) Place in the B Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Business and Single Residence B and located directly to the west of Highland Avenue as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 52, Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, and Needham Town Assessors Map 226, Parcels 56, 57, and 58, superimposing that district over the existing Business and Single Residence B districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A. and the northerly sideline of May Street; thence running northeasterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A. to the intersection with southerly sideline of Rosemary Street; southeasterly by the southerly sideline of Rosemary Street to the intersection with easterly sideline of Highland Ave; southwest by the westerly sideline of Highland Avenue to the intersection with the northerly sideline of May St; southwest by the northerly sideline of May Street to the point of beginning.

- (f) Place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and located directly to east of Highland Avenue and north of May Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 53, Parcels 1, 2 and 3, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 district, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the northerly sideline of May Street and the westerly sideline of Oakland Avenue; thence running easterly by the northerly sideline of May Street to the intersection with easterly sideline of Highland Avenue; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of Highland Avenue to the intersection with southerly sideline of Oakland Avenue; southeasterly by the southerly sideline of Oakland Avenue: southerly by the westerly sideline of Oakland Avenue to the point of beginning.

- (g) Place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and located directly to the west of Hillside Avenue and north of Rosemary Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 100 Parcels 1, 35, and 36, and Needham Town Assessors Map 101, Parcels 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 district, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the northerly sideline of Rosemary Street and the easterly sideline of Concannon Circle; thence running northwesterly by the easterly sideline of Concannon Circle, one hundred and sixty (160) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of 15 Concannon Circle Realty Trust, two hundred and thirty-two 75/100 (232.75) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of L. Petrini and Son Inc, one hundred and forty-five 84/100 (145.84) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of L. Petrini and Son Inc, one hundred and twenty-five (125) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the westerly sideline of Tillotson Road, one hundred and twelve (112) feet, more or less; northeasterly across Tillotson Road to the northeasterly corner of the property of L. Petrini and Son Inc, forty (40) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of L. Petrini and Son Inc, one hundred and twenty-five (125) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Petrini

Corporation, one hundred and nineteen 94/100 (119.94) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the southerly property line of L. Petrini and Son Inc, one hundred and sixty-two (162) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Rosemary Ridge Condominium, three hundred and twenty-eight (328) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Rosemary Ridge Condominium, two hundred and ninety (290) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Rosemary Ridge Condominium, one hundred and sixty-two 19/100 (162.19), more or less; northwesterly by the northerly property line of Rosemary Ridge Condominium, one hundred and thirty (130), more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Rosemary Ridge Condominium, two hundred and forty-one 30/100 (241.30), more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Pop Realty LLC, ninety-four 30/100 (94.30), more or less to westerly side of Hillside Avenue; southeasterly by the westerly sideline of Hillside Avenue to intersection with northerly sideline of Rosemary Street; southeasterly by the northerly sideline of Rosemary Street to the point of beginning.

- (h) Place in the IND Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Industrial, Hillside Avenue Business, and Single Residence B and located directly to the east of Hillside Avenue and north of Rosemary Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 100, Parcels 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 61, and Needham Town Assessors Map 101, Parcels 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, superimposing that district over the existing Industrial, Hillside Avenue Business, and Single Residence B districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the northerly sideline of Rosemary Street and the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A.; thence running northwesterly by the northerly sideline of Rosemary Street to the intersection with easterly sideline of Hillside Avenue; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of Hillside Avenue to the intersection with southerly sideline of West Street; northeasterly by the southerly sideline of West Street to the intersection with the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A.; southeasterly by the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A. to the point of beginning.

- (i) Place in the ASB-MF Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Avery Square Business and Single Residence B and located directly to the west of Highland Avenue and south of West Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 63, Parcel 37, superimposing that district over the existing Avery Square Business and Single Residence B districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A. and the southerly sideline of West Street; thence running southeasterly by the southerly sideline of West Street, one hundred and sixty-one 48/100 (161.48) feet, more or less; southeasterly on arch, twenty-nine (27/100) 29.27 feet to a point on the easterly sideline of Highland Avenue; southeasterly by the easterly sideline of Highland Avenue seven hundred and sixty-one (761.81) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of Highland Avenue ten (10) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly sideline of Highland Avenue seventy (70) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of HCRI Massachusetts Properties Trust II, one hundred and fifty (150) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the southerly property line of HCRI Massachusetts Properties Trust II, seventy (70) feet, more or less; southwest by the southerly property line of HCRI Massachusetts Properties Trust II, one hundred and two 57/100 (102.57) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A., three hundred and seventy-one 56/100 (371.56) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A., three 54/100 (3.54) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A., three hundred and ninety-three 56/100 (393.56) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A., one hundred and seventy-five 46/100 (175.46) feet to the point of beginning.

- (j) Place in the HAB Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Hillside Avenue Business and located directly to the east of Hillside Avenue and north of West Street as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 99, Parcels 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, superimposing that district over the existing Hillside Avenue district, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A and the northerly sideline of West Street; thence running northwesterly by the northerly sideline of West Street to the intersection with easterly sideline of Hillside Avenue; northwesterly by the easterly sideline of Hillside Avenue to the intersection with northerly sideline of Hunnewell Street; northwesterly by the easterly sideline of Hillside Avenue, twenty-four 1/100 (24.01) feet to the angle point; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of Hillside Avenue, ninety-five 61/100 (95.61) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Hillside Condominium, two hundred and twenty-one 75/100 (221.75) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Hunnewell Needham LLC, eighteen 48/100 (18.48) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the westerly sideline of M.B.T.A. to the point of beginning.

- (k) Place in the IND Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Industrial and Single Residence B and located at Crescent Road as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 98, Parcels 40 and 41, and Needham Town Assessors Map 99, Parcels 38, 39, 40, 61, 62, 63, and 88, superimposing that district over the existing Industrial and Single Residence B districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the bound on easterly side of Hunnewell Street, approximately three hundred and thirty-two 35/100 (332.35) feet from the intersection with Hillside Avenue; thence running southwesterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, one hundred and ninety-one 13/100 (191.13) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, sixty-eight 68/100 (68.75) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, one hundred and thirty (130) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly property line of Drack Realty LLC, seventy-three (73) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property line of Drack Realty LLC, one hundred and forty (140) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Lally, forty-one (41) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly property line of Lally, seventy-five (75) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Lally, one hundred (100) feet, more or less; southwesterly to the center of Crescent Road, twenty (20) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the center of Crescent Road, twenty-nine (29) feet, more or less; southwesterly to a bound located twenty-nine feet from the angle point on the easterly side of Crescent Road; southwesterly by the southerly property line of 66 Crescent Road LL, four hundred and fifteen 60/100 (415.60) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, fifty-two 37/100 (52.37) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, one hundred and sixty-two 37/100 (162.37) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, forty-five 76/100 (45.76) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, one hundred and forty-three 92/100 (143.92) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, fifteen 71/100 (15.71) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, two hundred and forty-eight 40/100 (248.40) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the easterly property line of Town of Needham, fifty-three 33/100 (53.33) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of 166 Crescent Road LLC, five hundred and fifty-five 68/100 (555.68) feet, more or less; northeasterly to the center of Crescent Road, twenty (20) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the center of Crescent Road, fifty-six 47/100 (56.47) feet, more or less; northeasterly to the bound located four 38/100 (4.38) feet from the end of the Crescent Road; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, one

hundred and forty-six 29/100 (146.29) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, fifty-four 82/100 (54.82) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, fifty-four 21/100 (54.21) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, one hundred and ninety-five 81/100 (195.81) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, seven (7) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, ninety-one (91) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly property line of Microwave Development Laboratories Inc, one hundred and forty-two (142) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the easterly sideline of Hunnewell Street, twenty (20) feet to the point of beginning.

- (l) Place in the A-1 Subdistrict of the Multi-family Overlay District a portion of land now zoned Apartment A-1 and Single Residence B and located east and west of Highland Avenue at Cottage Avenue as shown on Needham Town Assessors Map 70, Parcels 24 and 25, superimposing that district over the existing Apartment A-1 and Single Residence B districts, said description being as follows:

Beginning at the point on the westerly sideline of Highland Avenue, two hundred and seventeen 63/100 (217.63) from the arch on Webster Street; thence running southwesterly by the westerly sideline of Highland Avenue, three hundred and seventeen (317) feet, more or less; southeasterly across Highland Avenue, fifty (50) feet to a point on the easterly sideline of Highland Avenue; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, two hundred and seventy-eight 75/100 (278.75) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, sixty-one (61.51) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, one hundred and seventy-nine 70/100 (179.70) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the westerly sideline of Webster Street, thirty-one 16/100 (31.16) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, one hundred and sixty-six 51/100 (166.51) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, one hundred and five 59/100 (105.59) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, one hundred and forty-four 62/100 (144.62) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Avery Park Condominium, two hundred and seventy-seven 29/100 (277.29) feet, more or less; northwesterly across Highland Avenue, fifty (50) feet to a point on the westerly side of Highland Avenue: northwesterly by the southerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, one hundred and fifty-nine 45/100 (159.45) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, ninety-seven 33/100 (97.33) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the northerly sideline of Cottage Avenue, forty (40) feet, more or less; southwesterly by the southerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, fifteen (15) feet, more or less; northwesterly by the southerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, twenty-five 54/100 (25.54) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the easterly sideline of M.B.T.A., five hundred and seventy-five 57/100 (575.57) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, one hundred and forty-five 2/100 (145.02) feet, more or less; northeasterly by the northerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, one hundred and one 57/100 (101.57) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, one hundred and eighty 18/100 (180.18) feet, more or less; southeasterly by the northerly property line of Hamilton Highlands LLC, fifty-six 57/100 (56.57) feet to the point of beginning.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

From: [Carlucci, Nathan \(EOHLC\)](#)
To: [Kate Fitzpatrick](#)
Cc: [Kluchman, Chris \(EOHLC\)](#); [Lee Newman](#); Joshua.Tarsky@mahouse.gov; becca.rausch@masenate.gov; [Katie King](#); [Nadeau, Seth \(EOHLC\)](#)
Subject: Needham - Determination of Interim Compliance under MGL c. 40A, Section 3A
Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 5:49:09 PM

Dear Town Administrator Fitzpatrick,

Congratulations! The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities has approved the Action Plan submitted on 1/24/2025. Thank you for taking this step as outlined in table 3 in the MBTA Communities Regulations (760 CMR 72.00). With the approval of this Action Plan, Needham has achieved Interim Compliance with the law. This Interim Compliance is valid until the due date for District Compliance, which is July 14, 2025.

EOHLC appreciates submittal of the Action Plan describing Needham's planning efforts related to Section 3A District Compliance and wishes the Town of Needham the best in implementation of its components. If you have any questions regarding this determination, please contact me.

Best,

Nathan Carlucci
MBTA Communities Compliance Coordinator
Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
Livable Communities Division
nathan.carlucci@mass.gov

Articles 1 & 2

**AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – MULTI-FAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT
(BASE COMPLIANCE PLAN)**

**AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – MAP CHANGE FOR MULTI-FAMILY
OVERLAY DISTRICT (BASE COMPLIANCE PLAN)**

**Planning Board public hearing
February 13, 2025**

MBTA Communities Act Overview

The law (MGL C.40A Section 3A) established a requirement that each of the 177 designated MBTA Communities must have zoning that:

- Provides for at least 1 district of reasonable size in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right.
- Cannot have age-restrictions and shall be suitable for families with children.
- Must have a minimum gross density of 15 dwelling units per acre.
- A portion of the district must be located within 0.5 miles from a commuter rail station.
- Commuter rail communities, including Needham, have a deadline to comply of **July 14, 2025**.

Needham’s MBTA Communities Requirements:

Compliance Metric	Requirement
Gross Acres	50 acres
Unit Capacity	1,784 units
Dwelling Units per Acre	15 DU/AC
Percentage to be Located in Station Area	90%

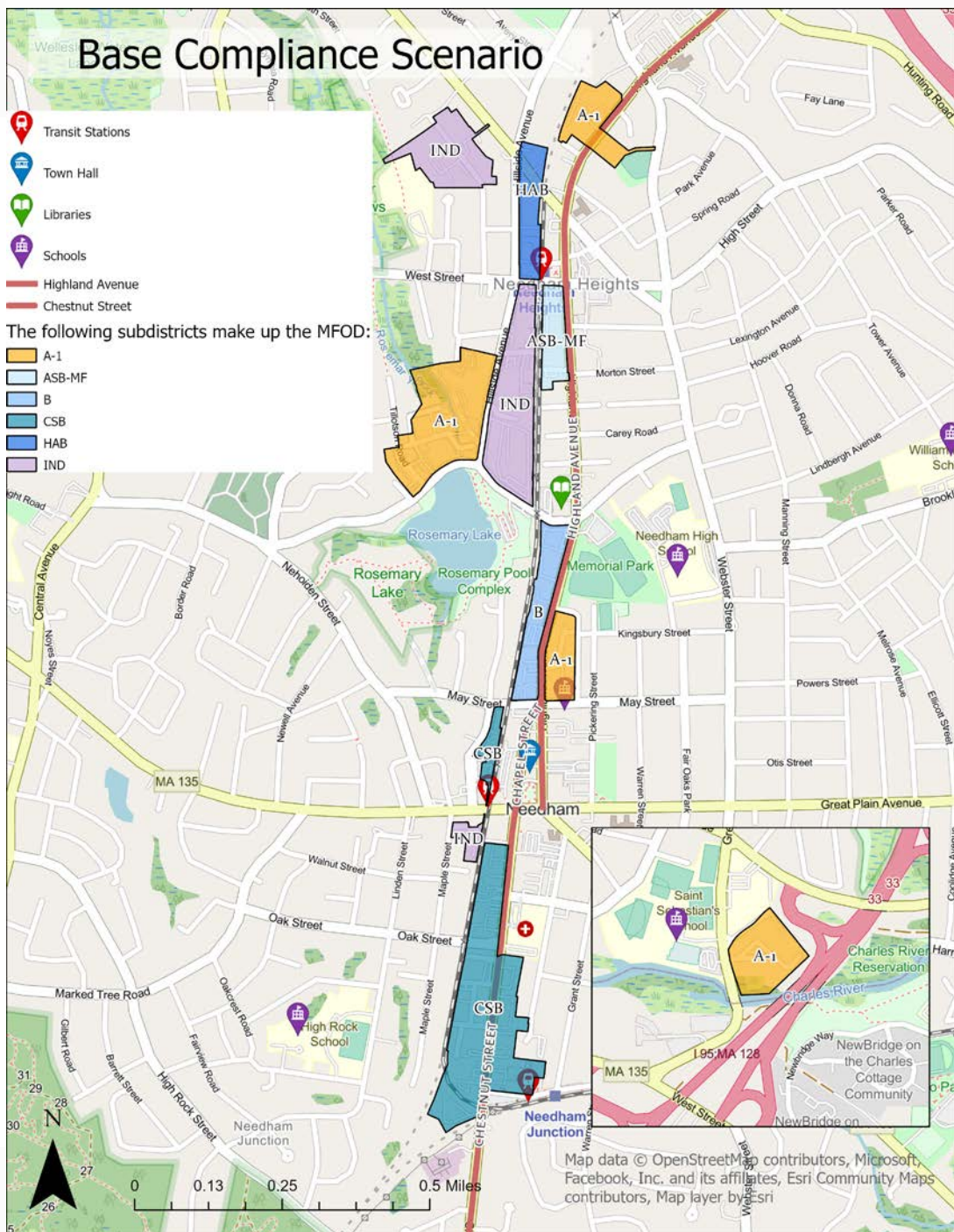
Article Overview

Base Compliance Plan: A scenario that adheres very closely to the zoning boundaries and dimensional standards in Needham’s current Zoning Bylaw. This scenario is intended to meet the minimum compliance requirements of the MBTA Communities Act.

Article 1: Creates a multi-family overlay district following the recommended district boundaries and dimensional standards in the Base Compliance Plan.

Article 2: The map change for the Base Compliance Plan to accompany Article 1.

	Needham Requirement	Base Compliance Plan
Acreage (net)	50	100.3
Unit Capacity	1,784	1,870
Density (units/acre)	15	18.6
Percent in Transit Area	90%	93%



- Follows the Highland Avenue / Chestnut Street corridor from Webster Street to Needham Junction Station
- Incorporates Existing Multi-Family Housing Developments along the corridor at
 - Hamilton Highlands / Avery School
 - Rosemary Ridge
 - Rosemary Lake
 - The Highlands
- Utilizes existing Business and Industrial Districts
- Incorporates Multi-Family Housing at Charles Court Condos

CURRENT ZONING PARAMETERS

	Apartment A1	Business	Avery Square Business Overlay	Chestnut St. Business ²	Hillside Ave. Business	Industrial
Minimum Lot Size (Sq. feet)	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Height (Stories)	3.0	3.0	4.0 ¹	2.5	2.5	3.0
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.50		1.1	0.70	0.70	
Max Lot Coverage		25%				60%
Max Dwelling Units Per Acre	18		18	18	18	
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

¹ Under existing zoning 4th story limited to 35% of total roof area.

² Chestnut Street Overlay:

- Min. Lot size – 15,000 SF
- By Special Permit:
 - o 4 stories (4th stories is recessed)
 - o FAR of 2.0
 - o No limit on dwelling units per acre

BASE COMPLIANCE PLAN ZONING PARAMETERS

	Apartment A1	Business	Avery Square Business	Chestnut St. Business	Hillside Ave. Business	Industrial
Minimum Lot Size (Sq. feet)	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Height (Stories)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.50		1.30	0.70	0.70	0.50
Max Lot Coverage		25%				
Max Dwelling Units Per Acre	18		44	18		
Parking per Unit	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
			4 stories, an FAR of 1.7 and > 44 units/acre allowed by Special Permit.			

Key comparison between base and existing zoning

Dimensional Standards

- Height is increased from 2.5 to 3 stories in the Chestnut Street Business and Hillside Avenue Business subdistricts.
- Minimum number of required parking spaces is reduced from 1.5 to 1.0 spaces in all subdistricts.

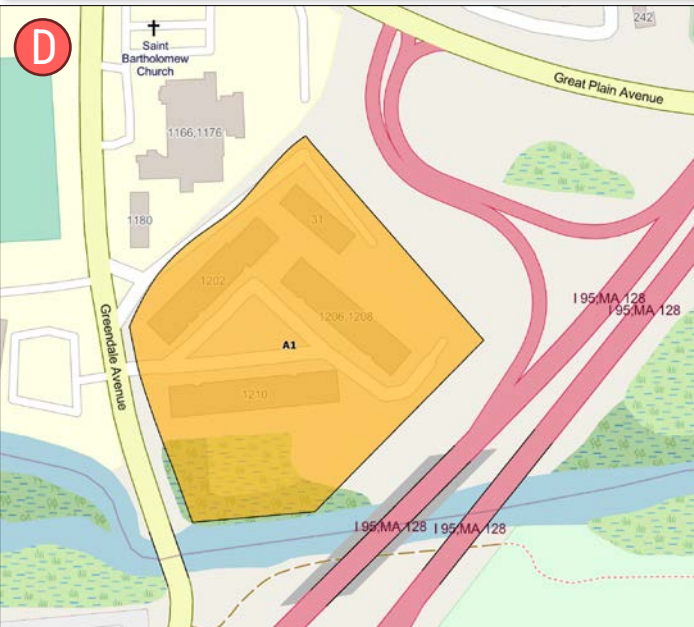
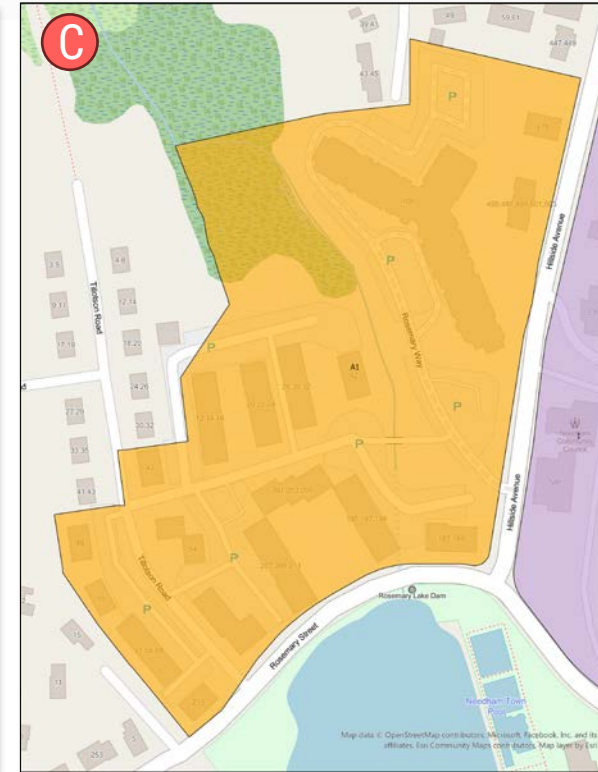
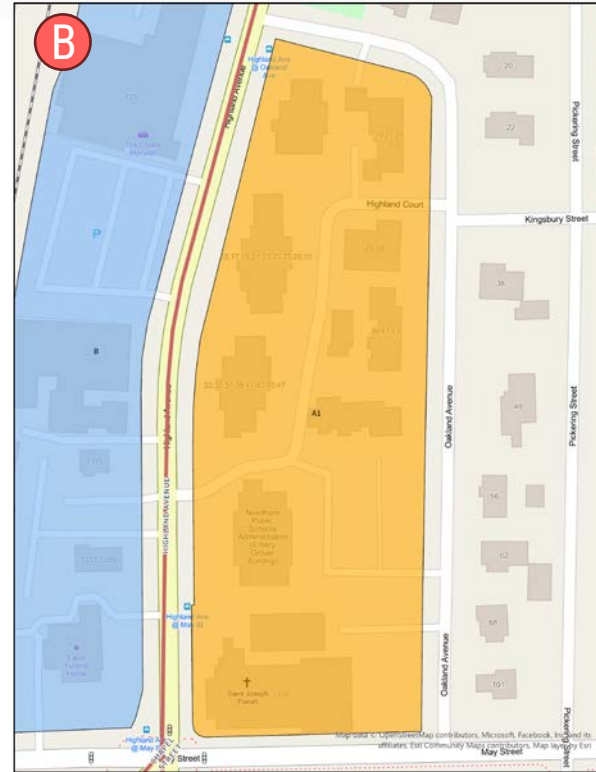
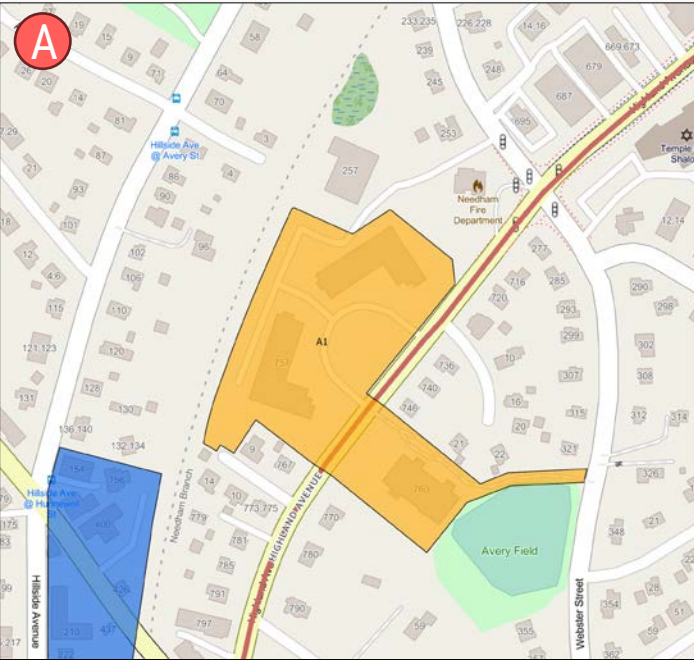
Land Use Standards

- Multifamily development is converted from special permit use to as of right use in Avery Square, Chestnut Street and Hillside Avenue Business subdistricts.
- Multifamily development is introduced as permitted as of right use in Business and Industrial subdistricts.
- * Avery Square Business subdistrict to be detailed in a subsequent slide.
- * There are currently overlay districts at Chestnut Street and Avery Square and **those overlays currently already allow higher density multifamily housing than the base plan.**

Units Allowed Under Existing & Proposed Zoning

Zoning District	Scenario Name: Unit Capacity				
	Existing Units	Existing Zoning Unit Capacity	Existing Zoning with Overlay Special Permit Unit Capacity	Base Compliance Plan Unit Capacity	Base Compliance Plan Likely Build
Apartment A1	588	526	526	526	0
Business	4	N/A	N/A	210	43
Avery Square Business	72	77	77	189	189
Chestnut St. East	46	370	987	370	50
Chestnut St. West					
Chestnut St./Garden St.					
Hillside Ave Business	44	46	46	80	8
Industrial – Crescent	21	N/A	N/A	495	121
Industrial – Hillside					
TOTAL UNIT CAPACITY	775	1,019	1,636	1,870	411

Scenario Comparison – Apartment A1 Subdistricts – Base Compliance

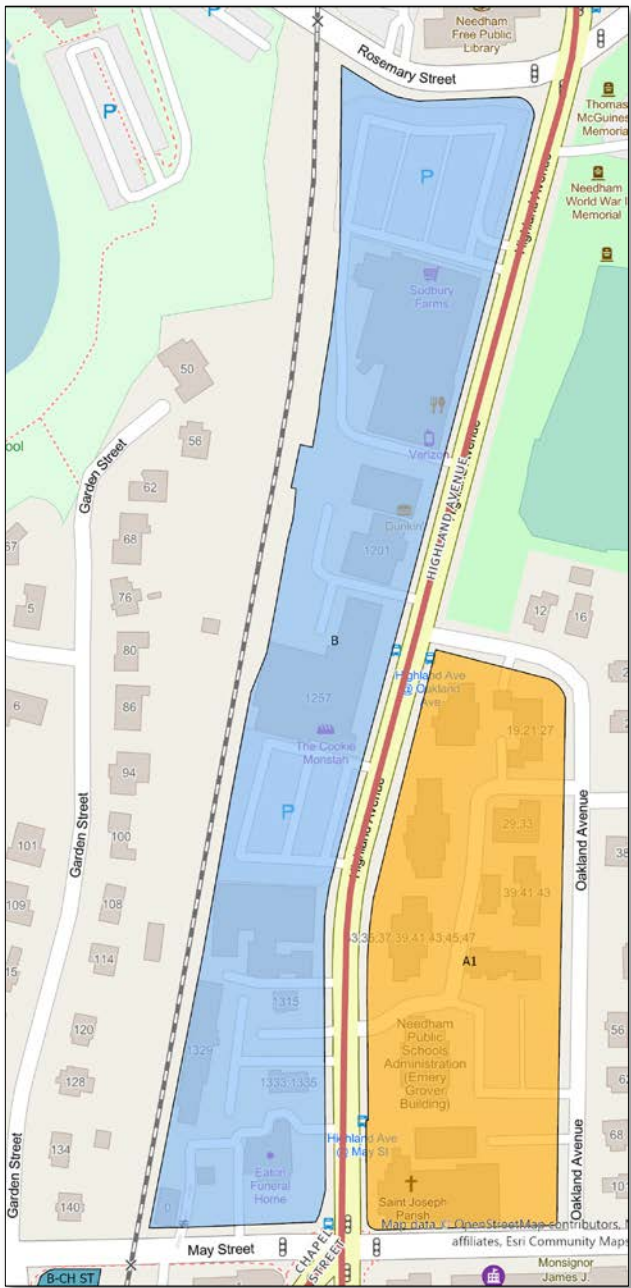


- A** Avery School/Hamilton Highlands
- B** The Highlands, NPS, St. Joseph (Highland Ave/May St.)
- C** Rosemary Ridge, Rosemary Lake Apts. (Rosemary St./Hillside Ave)
- D** Charles Court Condos

Zoning Standards	Existing Zoning	Base Compliance
Minimum Lot Size	20,000 SF	20,000 SF
Height (Stories)	3	3
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.50	0.50
Max Lot Coverage	N/A	N/A
Max Dwelling Units per Acre	18	18
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.0

Scenario Comparison – Business Subdistricts

Base Compliance

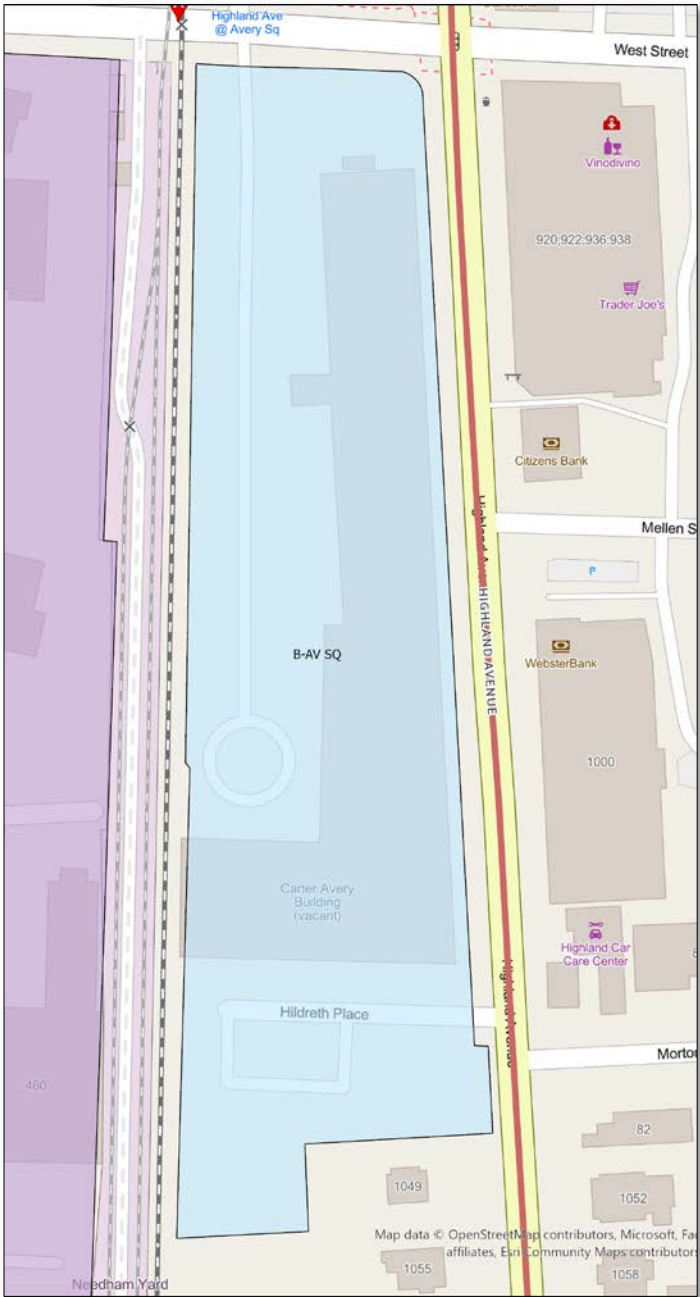


Zoning Standards	Existing Zoning	Base Compliance
Minimum Lot Size	10,000 SF	10,000 SF
Height (Stories)	3	3
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	N/A	N/A
Max Lot Coverage	25%	25%
Max Dwelling Units per Acre	N/A	N/A
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.0

Under existing zoning, multi-family housing is not allowed in this district.

Scenario Comparison – Avery Square Subdistricts

Base Compliance



Zoning Standards	Existing Overlay Zoning	Base Compliance
Minimum Lot Size	10,000 SF	10,000 SF
Height (Stories)	4 ¹	3
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	1.1	1.3
Max Lot Coverage	N/A	N/A
Max Dwelling Units per Acre	18	44
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.0

Under the Base Plan, the zoning would allow 4 stories, an FAR of 1.7 and a density greater than 44 dwelling units per acre by Special Permit. It would only apply to the 100 West parcel.

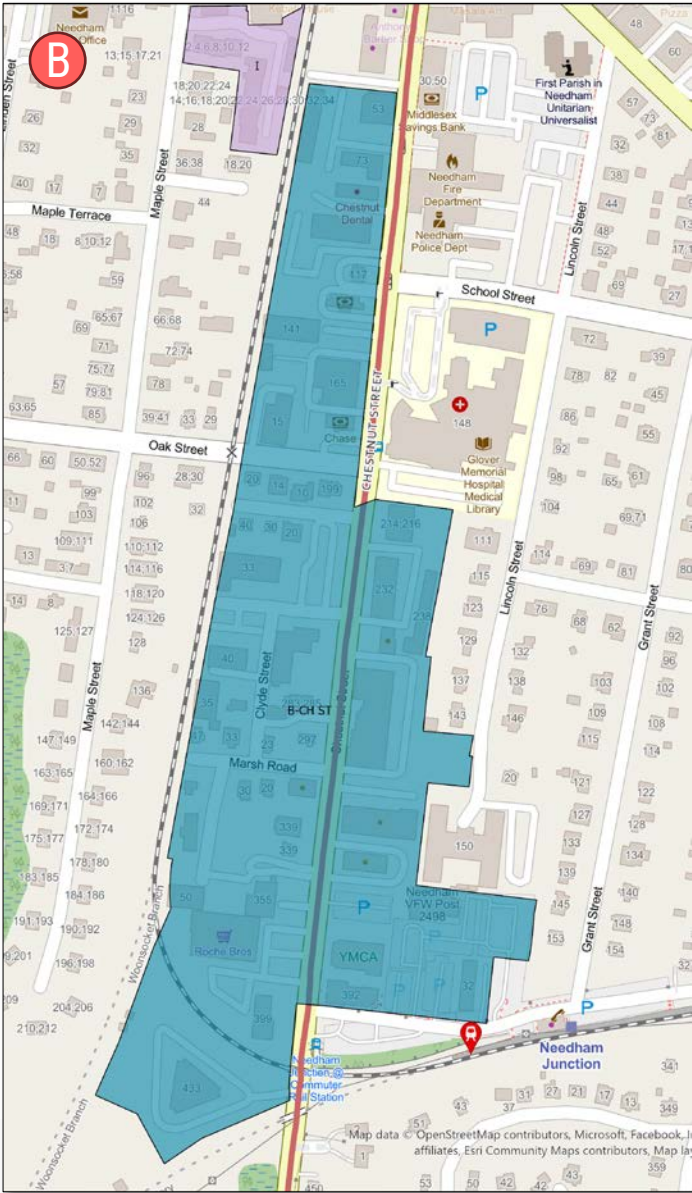
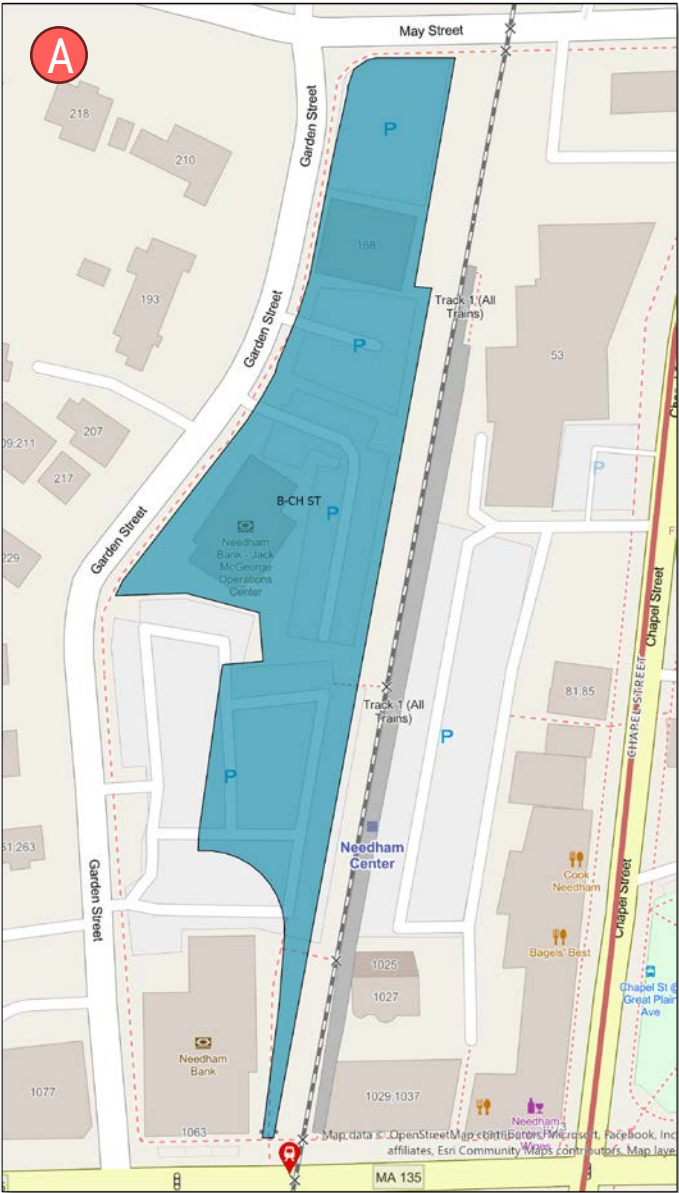
¹ Under existing zoning 4th story limited to 35% of total roof area.

The Base Compliance Plan includes:

Avery Square Business District

- Multi-family housing development as-of-right at 3 stories, an FAR of 1.3, and a limit of 44 maximum dwelling units per acre. The MBTA Communities Compliance model calculates this at 189 units.
- Multi-family housing development by special permit at an FAR of 1.7, a density greater than 44 units per acre and 4 stories.
- More stringent development standards for parking garages facades and curb cuts.
- The maximum FAR permitted as of right under existing zoning is increased from 1.1 to 1.3 with a special permit to increase the maximum FAR to 1.7. Parking garages, structured parking or deck/roof top parking screened from Highland Avenue and West Street are not counted toward FAR. Maximum area of 4th floor is increased from 35% of roof area to 100%. A maximum number of dwelling units per acre standard of 44 is introduced for the as of right condition. A density greater than 44 units per acre is permitted by special permit.

Scenario Comparison – Chestnut Street Subdistricts – Base Compliance

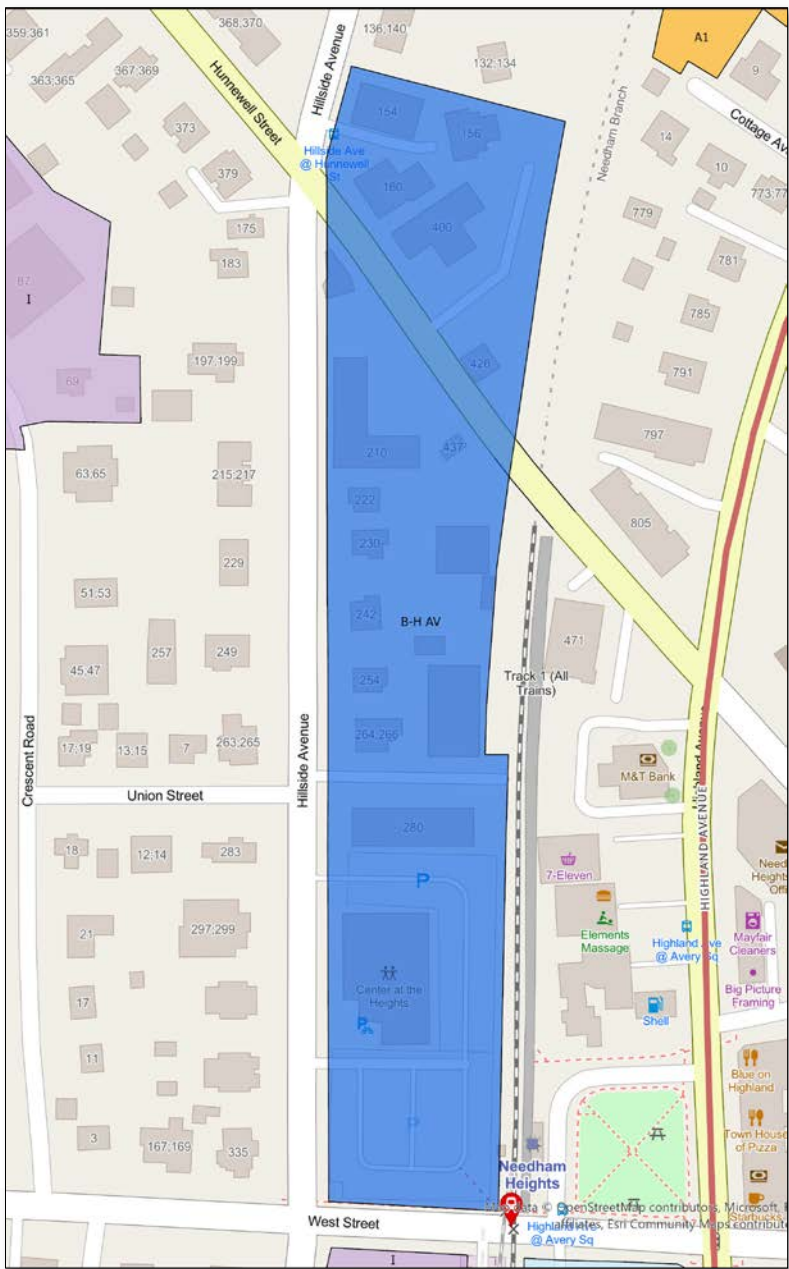


- A** Garden Street District between May St. and Great Plain Ave
- B** Chestnut St. from just south of Great Plain Ave to Junction St.

Zoning Standards	Existing Zoning	Base Compliance
Minimum Lot Size	10,000 SF	10,000 SF
Height (Stories)	2.5	3
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.70	0.70
Max Lot Coverage	N/A	N/A
Max Dwelling Units per Acre	18	18
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.0

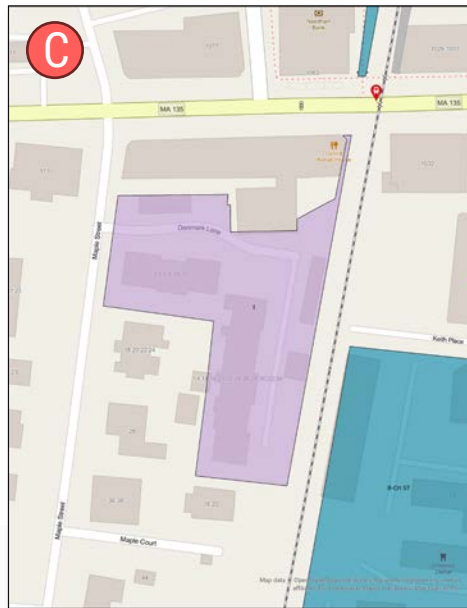
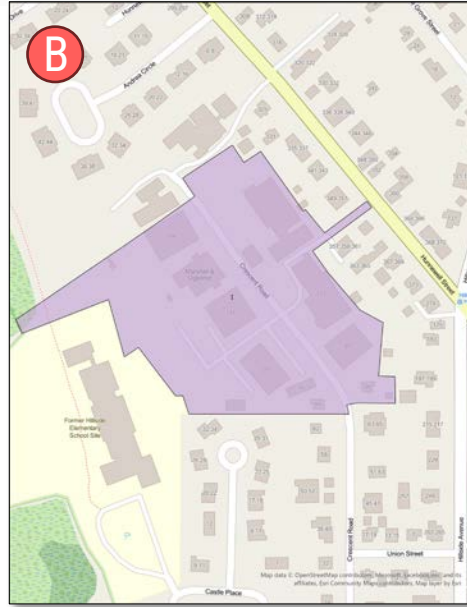
Scenario Comparison – Hillside Ave Business Subdistricts

Base Compliance



Zoning Standards	Existing Zoning	Base Compliance
Minimum Lot Size	10,000 SF	10,000 SF
Height (Stories)	2.5	3
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	0.70	0.70
Max Lot Coverage	N/A	N/A
Max Dwelling Units per Acre	18	N/A
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.0

Scenario Comparison – Industrial Subdistricts – Base Compliance



- A** Hillside Ave from West St. to Rosemary St.
- B** Crescent Road Industrial District
- C** Denmark Lane off Maple St. at Great Plain Ave

Zoning Standards	Existing Zoning	Base Compliance
Minimum Lot Size	10,000 SF	10,000 SF
Height (Stories)	3	3
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	N/A	0.50
Max Lot Coverage	60%	N/A
Max Dwelling Units per Acre	N/A	N/A
Parking per Unit	1.5	1.0

Under existing zoning, housing is not allowed in this district.

Site Plan Review

- Applications will be reviewed by the Planning Board, with a public hearing process.
- The Planning Board cannot deny an application that complies with the zoning (including building dimensions, height, setbacks, and development standards) because the use of multi-family housing is allowed as of right.
- The Board can apply limited, reasonable conditions, which may include modifying lighting, adding fencing, reviewing stormwater design for compliance with applicable standards, and adjusting parking layout and other structural elements on the site plan.
- Conditions can be used to shape a project, but conditions cannot go so far as to unreasonably interfere with or effectively prohibit the project.

Site Plan Review

- All projects will need to comply with Building Code, Fire Code, Health Code, Department of Public Works regulations, state and local wetlands and other environmental regulations.
- Given the limited nature of site plan review for a by-right use, the applicant cannot be required to fund major off-site public infrastructure improvements as a condition of approval, beyond the requirements of code and non-zoning regulations noted above.
- Conversely, the Town is under no obligation to make investments in public infrastructure to make an individual project viable.

The Base Compliance Plan includes:

Additional Site Plan review standards to:

- assure that buildings are designed with regard to their relationship to open spaces, existing buildings and other community assets in the area;
- address all collection and storage areas for residential refuse;
- assure provision of adequate water, sewer, and utility service to serve the project;
- address pedestrian and vehicular movement within and outside the project site including application of reasonable mitigation measures to address traffic attributable to the project; and
- include construction management standards consistent with those of the Town's General By-laws.

Housing Affordability

- Zoning requires that 12.5% of all new units in buildings with 6 or more units are set aside as deed restricted affordable housing for those making up to 80% of Area Median Income. This is consistent with Needham's existing zoning.
- RKG's Economic Feasibility Analysis (EFA) supports this recommendation in compliance with State guidelines under the MBTA Communities Act.
- Keeping the affordability set aside at 12.5% helps Needham continue to stay above the state's requirement of 10% affordability townwide.



Existing Needham Multifamily Housing



1110 Great Plain Avenue



90-98 Dedham Avenue



401-405 Hunnewell Street



The Highlands



Denmark Lane

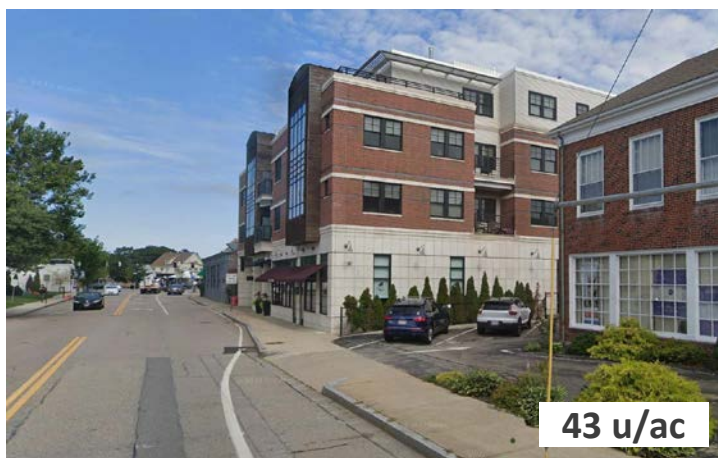


25 High Street

Existing Needham Multifamily Housing



Stephen Palmer



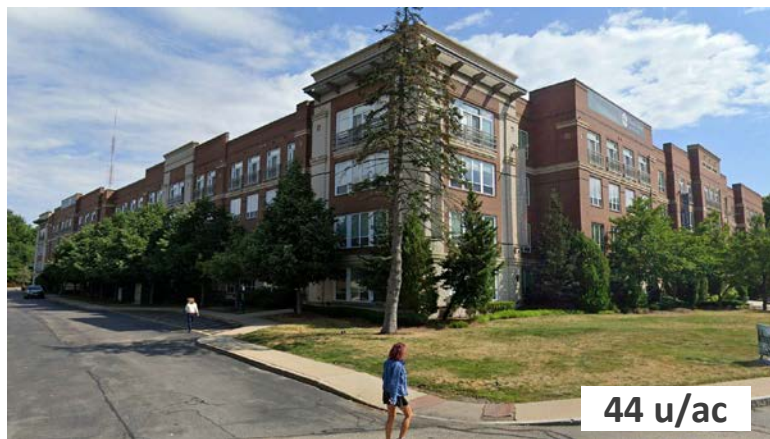
50 Dedham Avenue



100 West Street



Rosemary Ridge



Charles River Landing



Rosemary Lake

Examples of multifamily housing



Townhomes



3-4 story multifamily



Denser single-family homes



3-story multifamily



3-story multifamily



Live-work townhomes

Base Height

Chestnut
Street
Business

3

Roche
Bros.

Chestnut
Street
Business

3

Hartney
Greymont

Chestnut Street

Chestnut
Street
Business

3

VFW

Junction Street

Lincoln Street

Warren

Base Height

Linden Street

Maple Street

Street

Chestnut Street Business

3

Chestnut Street Business

3

Roche Bros.

Chestnut Street

Dunkin Donuts

Chestnut Street Business

3

VFW

Junction Street

Lincoln Street

Grant Street

Warren Street

Base Height

Industrial,
Apt-A1

3

Chestnut
Street
Business

3

Town Common

CVS

Great Plain Avenue

Dedham
Avenue

Public Safety
Building

School Street

Grant
Street

Lincoln Street

Waverly
Street

Oak Street

Chestnut Street

Base Height

Chestnut St.
Business

3

St. Joe's

May Street

Town Hall

Town Common

Great Plain Avenue

Michelson's

Harvey's

Industrial,
Apt-A1

3

Dedham Avenue

Chestnut Street

Maple Street

Linden Street





Base Height

Needham
Library

Needham
High School

Bertucci's

3

Apartment
A1

Business
District

3

Highland Avenue

St. Joe's

3

May Street

May Street

Base Height

Avery
Square
Business

100 West
Street

Rosemary Ridge

Apartment
A1

3

Rosemary Lake
Apartments

Industrial -
Hillside

3

Rosemary Lake

Rosemary Street

Highland Avenue

West Street

Hillside Avenue





Base Height

Industrial -
Crescent

Apartment
A1

Hillside
Ave.
Business

CATH

Avery
Square
Business

Industrial -
Hillside

3 By Right;
4 Special
Permit

West Street

West Street

Hillside Avenue

Highland Avenue

Trader
Joe's

100 West
Street



Base Height

Apartment
A1

3

Thank you.