

ESTABLISHMENT of PLANNING BOARD
(Provided by Chapter 494, Acts of 1913)
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL PLANNING BOARDS
BY CITIES AND TOWNS

SECTION 1. Every city of the commonwealth, and every town having a population of more than ten thousand at the last preceding national or state census, is hereby authorized and directed to create a board to be known as the planning board, whose duty it shall be to make careful studies of the resources, possibilities and needs of the city or town, particularly with respect to conditions which may be injurious in and about rented dwellings, and to make plans for the development of the municipality with special reference to the proper housing of its people. In cities, the said board shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the council, and in cities under a commission form of government, so-called, the members of the board shall be appointed by the governing body of the city. In towns, the members of the board shall be elected by the voters at the annual town meeting.

SECTION 2. Every planning board established hereunder shall make a report annually to the city council or governing body in cities and to the annual town meeting in towns, giving information regarding the condition of the city or town and any plans or proposals for the development of the city or town and estimates of the cost thereof; and it shall be the duty of every such local planning board to file a copy of all reports made by it with the homestead commission.

SECTION 3. The homestead commission, created by chapter six hundred and seven of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and eleven, is hereby directed to call the attention of the mayor and city governments in cities and the selectmen in each town having a population of more than ten thousand at the last preceding national or state census to the provisions of this act in such form as may seem proper; and said commission is furthermore authorized and directed to furnish information and suggestions from time to time to city governments and to the selectmen of towns and to local planning boards, when the same shall have been created, such as may, in its judgement, tend to promote the purposes of this act and of those for which the said commission was established.

SECTION 4. The city council or other governing body in cities is authorized to make suitable ordinances, and towns are authorized to make suitable by-laws, for carrying out the purposes of this act, and they may appropriate money therefor.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect, upon its passage.

Approved April 16, 1913.

Article 14. To see what action the Town will take in regard to a Town Planning Board in accordance with provisions of Chapter 494 of the Acts of 1913, or to take any action relating thereto, and to the adoption of any by-law to carry out the provisions of said Chapter, or act thereon.

Voted: That the By-Laws of the Town of Watertown are hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new by-law:

Chapter XXIV. Planning Board. The Planning Board which the Town of Watertown is required to elect under the provisions of Chapter 494 of the Acts of 1913, shall be composed of five citizens of the town. At the first election of said board, one member shall be elected for the term of one year, two for the term of two years, and two for the term of three years from the date of the Town Meeting at which they are elected; and at each Annual Town Meeting thereafter, the vacancy occurring by the expiration of the term of office of one member or of two members, as the case may be, shall be filled by election of a successor or successors for the term of three years.

The purposes, duties and authority of said board shall be those which are defined in said Chapter 494 and in any acts amendatory thereof which may hereafter be in force.

Vacancies which may occur in the membership of said board by death, resignation or removal from the town shall be filled by vote of the Selectmen and of the remaining members of said board, acting jointly, until the vacancy is filled by election at the next Annual Town Meeting.