

Zoning Amendments

Amendments to the Dracut Zoning Bylaw or Zoning Map are subject to Dracut's Town Charter as per the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws. All zoning amendments must be approved by a 2/3rds Town Meeting vote.

The following may initiate a petition for a zoning amendment:

1. Any elected town officer or member of an elected multiple-member body;
2. Any appointed multiple-member body acting by a majority of its members;
3. Any ten or more voters: or;
4. Any appointed town officer or department head

All subject submitted to the board of selectmen under that section shall be placed on a warrant for the next town meeting, annual or special that shall occur forty-five or more days following the date of submission.

Publication – Forthwith, following receipt by the board of selectmen of any subject for a town meeting warrant article, initiated by petition or by one or more members of the board of selectmen, a copy of such subject shall be posted on the town bulletin board and otherwise distributed as may be provided by by-law. Additional copies shall be kept available by the town clerk

Petition Process

The Planning Board will conduct a public hearing within receiving the petition from the Board of Selectmen (but at least 14 days after publication of a hearing notice) and prepare a recommendation on the amendment by majority vote. The Board must make a report to Town Meeting on the proposed amendment or 21 days must elapse after the public hearing before Town Meeting can vote on the amendment.

Effective Date

Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw or Zoning Map are effective immediately upon adoption by Town Meeting but are subject to approval by the Massachusetts Attorney General. The Attorney General has 90 days to act on Zoning Bylaws after Town Meeting.

Reconsideration

Any proposed zoning amendment that is disapproved by Town Meeting cannot be reconsidered by Town Meeting until two years have passed, unless adoption of such amendment is recommended by the Planning Board.