

Date: January 21, 2020

To: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

From: Appointments Advisory Committee

CC: Jennifer Mancia

RE: Recommendations for Appointment to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals

The Somerville Appointments Advisory Committee (“AAC”) reviewed 18 applications submitted and interviewed 13 candidates for 2 “Full Member” and 1 “Alternate Member” seats on the Somerville Planning Board (“PB”) and 1 “Full Member” on the Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”). Each candidate was asked a set of questions to obtain information on their motivation for seeking the position and their qualifications to undertake the assigned duties.

Planning Board

It is the opinion of the committee that **Jahan Habib** and **Sam Dinning** best met the qualifications and therefore we recommend them for the two open “Full Member” appointments to the Planning Board. Should either of them be unable to serve then we recommend **Ella Samson**. Should Ella not be appointed as a “Full Member” we then recommend her for the “Alternate Member” position. Should Ella unable to serve as the “Alternate Member” then we recommend **Robert Buchanan**.

Jahan Habib is currently the Global Financial and Accounting Operations Manager at MIT. Previously he was Principal at an independent Real Estate Investment firm where he was responsible for strategic planning, operations and firm management

Sam Dinning recently returned to Somerville from Seattle to “directly impact the community where [he] was raised”. He is currently practicing law at Anderson & Krieger, LLP. In the areas of zoning appeals, contract drafting and municipal policy development. He has also been recognized by Harvard Law School for providing over 2,000 hours of Pro Bono Work.

Ella Samson is an Associate Vice President and Founding Member of Deloitte Platforms, a software-focused division of US Deloitte Consulting. In this role Ella focuses on operating efficiency, process and system implementation and client-focused problem solving.

Zoning Board of Appeals

It is the opinion of the committee that **Katherine Garanglia** best met the qualifications and therefore we recommend Katherine for the “Alternate Member” seat. Katherine is currently Underwriting Counsel for First American Title Insurance Company where she underwrites policies for complex commercial transaction and development throughout the country and US Territories including reviewing zoning codes.