

Erin Geno

25 March 2021

To : Somerville Planning Board

Dear Planning Board,

I am writing to submit my interest in becoming a member of the Somerville planning board. First a little about me. I have lived in the Boston area since moving here for college in 2004 and in Somerville since 2009. First in the WinterHill neighborhood, then since 2013 in the Davis square neighborhood. I was drawn to Somerville by its accessibility to jobs, city amenities, and relative affordability.

Since the beginning I have always been interested in city planning, from attending the first zoning meetings near the HomeDepot to SomerSuppers. I am now at a life stage where I can see myself staying in Somerville for the next 20+ years and would like to get more involved so I can actively contribute to keeping the 'ville a place to live and grow for everyone.

I'm breaking tradition a bit in this cover letter to explicitly answer 3 questions: Why am I applying? What value will I bring? How will I contribute?

I believe SomerVision, if well implemented, can support the health and well being our neighborhoods. It is not just something to put on a pedestal, but a real opportunity to make people's lives better. Take for example next zero goals : climate change is happening and it's not just an existential issue. Intensifying heatwaves and urban heat islands affect real people and will disproportionately affect those on the socioeconomic scale who statistically live in more densely populated areas with less tree canopy and older buildings. There are some simple solutions like high albedo roofing material and there are more complex solutions like adding insulation standards. So how can planning help? Well you could go and mandate updates to roofs and insulation for every building older than some number of years but that would have knock on effects of raising rents which is *contrary* to affordability goals. Taking a step back and thinking holistically, how about mandating minimum reflectivity standards for roofs since 'cool roofs' are a well studied way to reduce heat islands *and* are not significantly more expensive than other materials? For insulation how about an incentive rebate so long as the building stayed affordable? It's not an innovative example since I know both of these have been implemented. It will take time and outreach to building owners so they understand the benefits, both environmental and monetary - but eventually Mildred down the street will feel the effects of this planning in a cooler August breeze. This is what makes planning exciting to me and why I'm applying.

My educational background is in chemistry, I have work experience both as a bench scientist and informatician (aka scientist-slash-ITperson) at local biotechs. I also have experience with

manufacturing, contributing to a small composites business in Florida run in part by my family. My hobbies include gardening, architecture, and sustainable living. Combined this eclectic mix would allow me to contribute valuable skills and personal experience to the planning board. As a scientist I became adept at isolating variables and understanding complex problems. As an informatician I work with tangled-messy problems and untangle them to provide elegant connected computational solutions accelerating teams who do bench science. Continually evolving in my career I'm adept at picking up new concepts and not afraid to learn.

This is backed up by my involvement with my family's composite preform business CFP, where I am a board member. The board meets at least quarterly to discuss business strategy and challenges, from new products, addressing supply lines, discussing employee retention and planning what to do if the crematorium 1 building over is approved. The company employs 12 people, most of whom have a highschool education, sometimes a few college credits. Average wage is \$17/hr plus benefits, which we are really proud of. This has been a valuable experience, seeing first hand the challenges faced when running a small business. Plus, learning to drive the fork-truck when I visit and get put to work is unexpectedly fun.

I'm also an avid gardener and lover of native plants. Currently my home goal is >60% natives and 100% collected water. I'm a 'consulting gardener' at many of my friends' gardens and have seen a wide range of challenges. A healthy city starts with healthy air, plants, and access to the outdoors - even if it's just a potted plant.

I've also always been interested in architecture and continue to follow the rapid developments in building technology for personal use and as a hobbyist. Good design has the capability not only to support life but also lift one's spirits. Everytime I walk past Somerville West library these days I smile just a little bit.

Finally, sustainable living. I do a fair bit of vegetable gardening, buy food almost exclusively from CSAs and have been fortunate enough to never need to drive to work. I can speak to multi-modal transit from experience - even moving furniture on my bike trailer! Oh and all of this while living in a 1 bedroom condo, so I also have experience living in typical Somerville tight quarters along with my partner and my cat.

I plan to provide constructive input using my personal experience, experience of friends, and comprehensive thinking. I also consider not being a planning professional to be an advantage. It allows me to approach problems without experiential bias and preconceived solutions and contribute a different perspective to the conversation.

I hope you will consider me for one of the positions on the board. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any local references or if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,
Erin



Erin Geno (nee Rohan)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Relay Therapeutics

Senior Analyst -Research Informatics

Sept 2020 - present

Utilize expert knowledge of workflows to develop and maintain an efficient research computing environment. Evaluate best-in-class vendor solutions and source fit-to-purpose custom solutions. Develop training plans and materials to support scientists using our platform.

Creative Form Products, Inc

Board Member and Advisor

June 2016 -present

CFB is a small manufacturing business in Florida that specializes in custom preform fiberglass boat parts and CNC cut from sheet. As a board member I contribute to regular quarterly meetings and ad-hoc discussions reviewing business strategy, financials and R&D plans.

Condo Association

President

2014-present

Oversee long term maintenance plans and budget projections for 3 unit building. In the last 5 years negotiated with neighbors to catch up on ~20 years of deferred maintenance and implemented a 30 year maintenance plan.

Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Business Systems Senior Analyst II - Scientific Computing

May 2017 – Sept 2020

Utilize research background bridge programmers and scientists to develop and maintain internal software, curate research data, analyze data flows and dependencies, and serve as primary scientific computing contact for global chemistry & DMPK departments.

- Business Analyst/ Project Manager (Chemistry & DMPK applications): Solicit requirements for application refreshes and new build-outs. Work collaboratively with scientists to define workflows, pain points and prioritize needs.
- User Support: Train users on scientific applications and coordinate vendor training as needed. Creation and maintenance of user guides. Reproduce and triage bug reports, fix client side issues. Integrate new workflows and applications into existing processes.

ARIAD Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Research Scientist – Medicinal Chemistry

Dec. 2015 – April 2017

Advancement of novel small molecule kinase inhibitors as potential cancer therapeutics covering immuno-oncology and oncogene targets.

Chemical Hygiene Officer, Institutional Safety Committee

June 2016 – April 2017

- Collaboratively drafted and revised company-wide chemical storage and hygiene plans
- Managed implementation of chemical storage and inventory after across-town move

'IT Buddy' providing embedded support for chemistry software

Aug. 2016 – April 2017

Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research

Scientific Associate II -Chemical Genetics and Proteomics

Jan 2012 – Dec 2015

Progressed hits from cell-based phenotypic screens with a goal to find and validate novel, clinically

relevant targets within a multi-disciplinary team.

Scientific Associate I - Early Discovery Chemistry

June 2008 – Jan 2012

Optimization of lead compounds across multiple disease areas with an eye towards improving potency, selectivity and *in vivo* properties.

EDUCATION

Boston University – Boston, Massachusetts Sept 2004 – May 2008

B.A., Chemistry, 2008

M.A., Chemistry, 2008

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIPS

Mass State Science Fair Judge 2014, 2018 - 2020

Otherworld Interactive Theater - Staff 2016-present

- Staff adventure weekend allowing participants to be their most heroic selves. Involves acting during the weekend and contributing to logistics and labor of setting up camp the week before. <http://otherworld.org/>

Bikeway Community Garden Member 2015-present

The plot near the front with the metal scaffolding and metal cat statue

6 Clifton Condo association President 2014-present

Oversee maintenance plans and budget projections for 3 unit building

SELECTED AWARDS

Somerville Garden - 3rd place Vegetable 2019
Somerville Garden Club Contest

Most Stylish/Best Dressed Toter - 2012
City of Somerville Love Tote Contest

PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS

Huang, Wei-Sheng; Zhang, Yun; Youngsaye, Willmen; Geno, Erin, "Anilinopyrimidines as Haematopoietic Progenitor Kinase 1 (HPK1) Inhibitors." WO2018/102366 A1, published 37 June 2018.

Cho, Hyelim; Geno, Erin; Patoor, Maude; Reid, Adam; McDonald, Rick; Hild, Marc; Jenkins, Jeremy. "Indolyl-pyridinyl-propenones induce methuosis through inhibition of PIKFYVE" *ACS Omega*, 2018, 3 (6), pp 6097–6103.

Daniel Palacios, Erik Meredith, Toshio Kawanami, Christopher Adams, Xin Chen, Veronique

Darsigny, Erin Geno, Mark Palermo, Chantale Guy, Jeffrey Hewett, Laryssa Tierney, Sachin Thigale, Wilhelm Weihofen, Upendra A. Argikar, Geoffrey Boynton, Elizabeth L. George, Louis Wang. "Identification and structure based design of cellularly active cyclo-propyl carboxamide Nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase (NAMPT) inhibitors" *Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, 2018, 3, 365-370.

Baryza, J. L.; Blommers, M.; Borland, T.; Fernandez, C.; Gebuhr, T.; Geno, E.; Gossart, A.; Greenidge, P.; Huesken, D.; Hunziker, J.; Natt, F.; Patnaik, A.; Patterson, A. W.; Rondeau, J.-M.; Solomon, J.; Weiler, J.; Zhu, M. "Organic Compositions to Treat Hepcidin-Related Diseases." WO2015051135, published 3 September 2015.

Baryza, J. L.; Blommers, M.; Fernandez, C.; Geno, E.; Gossart, A.; Greenidge, P.; Huesken, D.; Hunziker, J.; Natt, F.; Patnaik, A.; Patterson, A. W.; Rondeau, J.-M.; Weiler, J.; Zhu, M.; "Novel Formats for Organic Compounds for Use in RNA Interference." WO2015051044, published 2 July 2015.

Baryza, J. L.; Blommers, M.; Chutkow, W.; Fernandez, C.; Geno, E.; Gossart, A.; Greenidge, P.; Huesken, D.; Hunziker, J.; Natt, F.; Patnaik, A.; Patterson, A. W.; Rondeau, J.-M.; Weiler, J.; Zhu, M. "Novel Formats for Organic Compounds for Use in RNA Interference." WO2015051366, published 2 July 2015.

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Baryza, J. L.; Blommers, M.; Fernandez, C.; Geno, E.; Gossart, A.; Greenidge, P.; Huesken, D.; Hunziker, J.; Natt, F.; Patnaik, A.; Patterson, A. W.; Rondeau, J.-M.; Weiler, J.; Zhu, M.; Holdorf, M.; "Organic Compounds to Treat Hepatitis B Virus." WO2015050871, published 9 April 2015.

Comer, E.; Rohan, E.; Deng, L.; Porco, J. A., Jr. "An Approach to Skeletal Diversity Using Functional Group Pairing of Multifunctional Scaffolds" *Org. Lett.* 2007, 9, 2123-2126..