## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Alyssa W [redacted]
[redacted] PM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** On support of ground floor entry

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

I've heard there's a Land Use meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 1st, at 6:30 pm which will bring up the reasoning behind the requirement of minimum 2 feet in ground story elevation for Somerville's houses.

I am strongly in favor of removing the two foot requirement. It may make sense in some areas which have for instance flooding issues, but having more new buildings accessible from the street level can only be helpful for the elderly, disabled, etc. Removing the city-wide requirement and letting folks make their own decisions would hopefully result in much of the new housing stock be more accessible to all.

Thanks

Alyssa Wilk
Ward 6

**Madalyn Letellier**

**From:** David Booth [redacted]
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2026 5:32 PM
**To:** Public Comments
**Cc:** All City Council
**Subject:** Fix zoning flaws for better accessibility

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.

I am glad to see this proposal to fix the current flaw in the zoning,
which requires building entrances to be raised:
https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=8191345&GUID=B9CD6B9B-3785-482A-9919-550D71DB0110&Options=&Search=

Please support better accessibility for wheelchairs, etc., by voting in
favor of this proposed change.

Thanks!
David Booth
[redacted] Somerville

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** PJ Santos [redacted]
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2026 12:40 PM
**To:** Public Comments; All City Council; Crystal Huff
**Subject:** Public Comment In Favor of 26-1259, Accessible Ground Stories Zoning Petition

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

Hello City Council,

I'm writing in support of the zoning petition to relax the 2 ft ground story elevation requirement. To me, this seems like a small change that would make a meaningful difference in making our city more welcoming to people with mobility challenges.

From my understanding the elevation requirement was motivated by a desire to add extra privacy to 1st floor units, but this seems like a pretty clunky way to do that. For example, on any of our hillier streets, the sidewalk is often more than 2 ft above or below the front door of the adjacent buildings. Additionally, many apartments (like mine) have a bunch of bushes, a porch, or both to provide privacy. In my case, I'd probably get more bush-privacy if my house was lower.

In other words, this one-size-fits-all requirement doesn't always accomplish its goals, has real harms, and it would be better if we were less prescriptive and allowed builders to figure out what will work best for each parcel.

Best,
Peter Kim-Santos
[redacted] Somerville, MA 02144

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Andrew B [redacted]
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2026 12:20 AM
**To:** All City Council
**Cc:** Public Comments
**Subject:** accessibility in zoning

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.

I'm a Somerville resident and I'm writing in to voice support for allowing ground level entry and other handicapped accessible design and construction approaches in local zoning and building codes.

Actively impeding handicapped accessible construction absent a relevant safety concern seems unjust, and I don't think it serves our community.

--thanks
--andrew b
Ward 6

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Aaron Weber [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 9:09 AM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** In support of level entry item 29-1259 & others

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

To the Planning Board and Land Use Committee:

I will be unable to attend your meeting on October 1, but I am writing now to express my support for the level entry proposal, item 29-1259, as well as Councilor Jon Link's amendments to that item, filed separately as item 26-1373, which alter the Architectural Design Guidelines for NR, UR, and MR building zones to allow full size ground floor windows on level-entry buildings.

Separately, I also support the other items listed in the current agenda, especially item 26-1336, updating the city's rules on accessory dwelling units and reconciling them with state rules.

Best,
Aaron Weber
[redacted]
Somerville, MA 02143

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Sara Oaklander [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 10:22 AM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** Zoning Code Changes

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

To the Members of the Planning Board and Land Use Committee.

I am a local resident and homeowner who appreciates your efforts to improve accessibility in Somerville's zoning code. To that end, I am writing to support the level entry proposal, item 29-1259. I would also like to encourage the Land Use Committee to include adjustments from Councilor Jon Link's proposal, item 26-1373, altering the Architectural Design Guidelines for NR, UR, and MR building zones, which will allow full size ground floor windows on level-entry buildings.

I also encourage you to support item 26-1336, clarifying the city's rules on accessory dwelling units and reconciling them with state rules.

Many thanks for your consideration!

Sara Oaklander
[redacted]

--
*Sara Oaklander*
[redacted]

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Devin Matté [redacted] >
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 10:27 AM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** Support Comment for 29-1259

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

Hello,

Thank you for working on improving accessibility in Somerville's zoning code. I am writing to **support** the level entry proposal, item **29-1259**. I would also like to encourage the Land Use Committee to include adjustments from Councilor Jon Link's proposal, item 26-1373, altering the Architectural Design Guidelines for NR, UR, and MR building zones, which will allow full size ground floor windows on level-entry buildings.

I also encourage you to support item 26-1336, clarifying the city's rules on accessory dwelling units and reconciling them with state rules.

I appreciate progress on improving our zoning to better reflect the goals of our city and its residents.

Thanks,
Devin Matté
[redacted]

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Monte Allen [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 1:43 PM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** Zoning Code changes

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

Dear Members of the Planning Board and Land Use Committee.

As a local homeowner who appreciates your efforts to improve accessibility in Somerville's zoning code, I am writing to support level entry proposal, item 29-1259. I would also like to encourage the Land Use Committee to include adjustments from Councilor Jon Link's proposal altering the Architectural Design Guidelines for NR, UR, and MR building zones (item 26-1373), which would allow full-size ground floor windows on level-entry buildings.
Please also support item 26-1336, which clarifies the city’s rules on accessory dwelling units and reconciles them with state rules.

Thanks for your consideration !

Monte Allen
[redacted]

## Madalyn Letellier

**From:** Kit Stubbs [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 10:06 AM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** Supporting improving accessibility in our zoning code

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

Hi!

Thank you for working on improving accessibility in Somerville's zoning code. I am writing to support the level entry proposal, item 29-1259. I would also like to encourage the Land Use Committee to include adjustments from Councilor Jon Link's proposal, item 26-1373, altering the Architectural Design Guidelines for NR, UR, and MR building zones, which will allow full size ground floor windows on level-entry buildings.

I also encourage you to support item 26-1336, clarifying the city's rules on accessory dwelling units and reconciling them with state rules.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Best,
Kit Stubbs
[redacted] Somerville

**Madalyn Letellier**

**From:** Daniel Engelberg [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 6:28 PM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** Zoning amendments

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

City council,

Thank you for working on improving accessibility in Somerville's zoning code. I am writing to support the level entry proposal, item 29-1259. I would also like to encourage the Land Use Committee to include adjustments from Councilor Jon Link's proposal, item 26-1373, altering the Architectural Design Guidelines for NR, UR, and MR building zones, which will allow full size ground floor windows on level-entry buildings.

I also encourage you to support item 26-1336, clarifying the city's rules on accessory dwelling units and reconciling them with state rules.

Daniel Engelberg
[redacted]

**Madalyn Letellier**

**From:** Erin Golden [redacted]
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2026 1:04 AM
**To:** Public Comments
**Subject:** zoning code proposals

**This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.**

---

Hello,

I am writing in support of item 29-1259, a proposal that will improve accessibility in buildings in Somerville by allowing level entry. I also support item 26-1373 before the Land Use Committee, to allow full-size ground floor windows on those buildings with level entry. After dealing with my own mobility issues, I have come to appreciate the difference even a few additional stairs can make for disabled people, and I would like to see our city become more accessible for all.

Thank you,
Erin Golden
[redacted]
Somerville, MA 02144