

HOUSE No. 724

By Mr. Brownsberger of Belmont, petition of William N. Brownsberger and others for legislation to establish an Alewife Planning Commission. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

William N. Brownsberger J. James Marzilli, Jr.
Steven A. Tolman Stephen Stat Smith

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ALEWIFE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the
2 contrary, there is hereby established a special commission, titled the
3 Alewife Planning Commission, in this act called the commission, for
4 the purpose of defining long term regional planning objectives for
5 the Alewife basin and broad recommendations towards achieving
6 those objectives.

7 The commission shall focus primarily on the areas of the Alewife
8 basin near the shared borders of Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge
9 and most specifically on the area surrounding the intersection of
10 Route 2 and Route 16 and the Alewife transit station and shall con-
11 sider all aspects of long term planning for the area, and all issues
12 bearing on the future of the area, including without limitation:
13 Regional traffic planning, regional transit planning, water quality
14 protection, storm water management, wetlands protection and
15 restoration, wildlife protection, regional recreation needs, bicycle
16 and pedestrian access, land conservation and local priorities as
17 reflected by local zoning. The commission may explore issues cur-
18 rently under the jurisdiction of other state or local entities for the
19 purpose of developing a comprehensive regional vision, but the
20 commission shall have no authority not specifically provided for in
21 this act.

22 The commission shall be composed of one member designated by
23 the department of conservation and recreation, one member desig-
24 nated by Massachusetts highway department, one member desig-
25 nated by the Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority, one member
26 designated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, one member
27 designated by the Board of Selectmen of Arlington, one member
28 designated by the Board of Selectmen in Belmont and one member
29 designated by the City Council of Cambridge.

30 The commission may receive funds from any lawful source,
31 including without limitation funds appropriated either by the Com-
32 monwealth or by any municipality and may use said funds to employ
33 such consultants and other professionals and purchase for materials
34 and services as it deems necessary and appropriate insofar as the
35 same are not supplied by cooperating state or local government or
36 private entities.

37 The commission shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the
38 open meeting law and shall keep accurate records of its meetings
39 and actions. The commission shall seek broad input from all parties
40 with an interest in the Alewife basin.

41 The state agencies having authority to make appointments to the
42 committee shall make said appointments within sixty days of the
43 effective date of this act. After 60 days have elapsed from the effec-
44 tive date of this act, the failure of one or more appointing authorities
45 to make an appointment shall not prevent the commission from
46 meeting or beginning its work and a quorum of the commission shall
47 be comprised of at least one half of the actually sitting members of
48 the commission.

49 The commission make its recommendations in a public report to
50 be filed with legislature not more than eighteen months after the
51 effective date of this act. The commission shall dissolve upon the
52 filing of its report.

53 This act shall take effect upon its passage.