



Town of Stow  
**PLANNING BOARD**

**380 Great Road**  
**Stow, Massachusetts 01775-1122**  
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September 5, 2019

Sean R. Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services  
Division of Local Services  
PO Box 9569  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Cronin,

The Stow Planning Board is pleased to provide this cover letter demonstrating successful advancement of the Town of Stow's 2016 *Prep for Success* Community Compact. As stated in your letter of June 2, 2016 the Town entered into the Housing and Economic Development Prep for Success Compact to demonstrate an

*“ability to partner with the private sector, non-profits, and public sector organizations in order to advance housing and economic development vision and goals of the community as evidenced by the successful completion of public/private/non-profit projects.”*

Since June of 2016, the Town of Stow has successfully completed two planning processes, both aimed at increasing economic development opportunities in the Town's primary business district and advancing opportunities for diversified housing opportunities. Below is an overview of each relevant project completed. The final reports for both projects are attached to this letter.

**Business District Assessment and Market Analysis | December, 2018**

In late 2017 the Town was awarded funding through the *Massachusetts Downtown Initiative* of the Department of Housing and Economic Development, to complete a “Business District Assessment and Market Analysis” of the Town's primary business district. The study's purpose was to inform the Town's decision making regarding zoning upgrades and public water supply infrastructure. To reach that goal, the consultant analyzed data from residents and business owners, as well as obtained market data, including sales leakage, demographic and trade area information.

Since its completion in 2018, the Town has used the report to inform local business and property owners of the economic opportunities the district provides, as well as to jumpstart discussions with private property owners regarding potential public/private infrastructure partnerships.

**Lower Village Revitalization Subcommittee Final Report | May, 2019**

Beginning in 2018, the Planning Board formed the Lower Village Revitalization Subcommittee to guide the work of the consultant funded through the MA Downtown Initiative Grant, and to provide the Board with recommendations on zoning upgrades in Lower Village. By conducting a zoning audit, a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats analysis, as well as incorporating results from a past visual preference survey, the Subcommittee provided an updated vision for the Lower Village Business District, integrating housing diversity, infrastructure improvements and zoning upgrades into several goals and recommendations for the Planning Board.

The Planning Board is pleased to continue to partner with the Community Compact Cabinet on current and future efforts. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Steadman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jesse Steadman

*Stow Town Planner*

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