

A Brief History of Zoning in Woburn

A Special Meeting of the City Council was convened on Monday, December 22, 1924 by call of Mayor Stephen S. Bean for the purpose of taking action on the Zoning Ordinance. A public hearing was held at that meeting and the matter was referred to a second public hearing. On Friday, January 2, 1925 at 8:15 p.m. a second public hearing was held on the Zoning Ordinance and the matter was passed to be ordained. The Mayor approved the ordinance on Saturday, January 3, 1925 and the ordinance became effective on that date.

The Zoning Ordinance was published as Chapter XXVIII of the Revised Ordinances of 1934 of the City of Woburn.

A substantial revision of the Zoning Ordinance was introduced to the City Council at its regular meeting on May 18, 1961 and set up for a public hearing. The public hearing was held on Monday, June 12, 1961 and the matter was tabled for further study. Several further meetings were conducted during which time the City Council amended several provisions of the original proposal. On July 6, 1961, the City Council voted to revoke Chapter XXVIII of the Revised Ordinances of 1934 and adopted the Revised Zoning Ordinance. On July 10, 1961, the Mayor approved the ordinance and the ordinance became effective on that date.

There was a further re-drafting of the Zoning Ordinance introduced into the City Council on April 9, 1962 and several hearings followed on the revisions during the following weeks. On August 9, 1962, the City Council voted to adopt the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance. The Mayor approved the ordinance on August 20, 1962 and the ordinance became effective on that date.

At a Special Meeting of the City Council on January 22, 1970, a public hearing was held on a further significant revision of the Zoning Ordinance. On April 7, 1970, the City Council adopted a revision of the Zoning Ordinance and repealed the zoning ordinance passed in August 1962. The Mayor approved the ordinance on April 10, 1970 and the ordinance became effective on that date.

On January 2, 1985, a major revision to the Zoning Ordinance was introduced to the City Council. After a series of public hearings, the City Council voted on April 19, 1985 that the proposed Zoning Ordinance be passed to be ordained. The Zoning Ordinance repealed the Zoning Ordinance of 1970. The Zoning Ordinance was approved by the mayor on April 24, 1985 and became effective on that date.

William C. Campbell
City Clerk

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