## 20250227\_Zoom Q&A Log

Question Report				-			+	+-
Report Generated:	2/28/2025 11:04							
Topic	Meeting ID 1603064454	Actual Start Time 2/27/2025 17:31	Actual Duration (minutes)	# Question				+
Roslindale Square: Squares + Streets Draft Zoning Map Amendment Public Meeting	1603064454	2/2//2025 17:31	145	48				_
Question Details								
Question	Asker Name	Asker Email	Answer	Question Time	Answered Time	Answer Name	Answer Email	Upvot
Overall appreciate the work that has been put into the zoning map, but want to secifically propose that 16 Cohasset, a commercially used building that is currently 2F-5000, be rezoned to be the same as the adjacent proposed S-4 district. Has consideration been given to that parcel's rezoning?	Matthew Lawlor	matthew.j.lawlor@gmail.com	Hi Matt: We've heard directly from this property owner that they are interested in being rezoned (becasue as you cite, they are a commercially used building). We take the input of property owners seriously, and so are having further discussion with them about what district is most appropriate for them.	2/27/2025 18:19	2/27/2025 18:23	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
One additional question - I reside at 15 Basto Terrace. Basto is a short dead end off of South between Fairview and Tappan. S-0 is zoned at the bottom of the block on the parcels fronting on South. Given how poorly the 2F-5000 zoning district we currently have on Basto matches our actual built fabric, I would like to know if the planning department might reconsider and zone my street S-0 as well. Thank you.	Matthew Lawlor	matthew.j.lawlor@gmail.com	We're happy to take a look at that area - when we look at zoning S0, we look at a combination of existing building/lot pattern, and existing range of use that exists there.	2/27/2025 18:27	2/27/2025 18:33	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
believe that bringing more options for locals and visitors to shop is amazing, but is there anything that an be done about rent pricing? Many businesses fail becuase they can no longer pay rent, and there are urrently vacant commercial stores simply because landlords are keeping rent too high. I don't want			Hi Sarah: It is difficult for us to intervene directly in the contractual relationship betweena landlord and a business legally, but our colleagues in OEOI have developed a number of programs that our meant to help					
oslindale to become a place of empty ground floors.  I believe that bringing more options for locals and visitors to shop is amazing, but is there anything that can be done about rent pricing? Many businesses fail becuase they can no longer pay rent, and there are currently vacant commercial stores simply because landlords are keeping rent too high. I don't want oslindale to become a place of empty ground floors.	Sarah Martin	saraheprinty@gmail.com	support businesses (and fill ground floors!). I'll let them fill in more about that.  Hi Sarah- We share your concern around long-standing empty ground floor spaces- and are exploring what mechanism's lools /policies may be available city-wide to discourage this. Our small business team resources and programs can be found here: https://www.boston.gov/departments/economic-opportunity-and-inclusion/help-small-businesses. While the City/OEOI presently does not have direct financial resources to mitigate rents, our small business team neighborhood managers work closely with small businesses to match them with the resources we do have available (found at the above link), as well as connect them to other partners/organization who may have financial resources.			Kathleen Onufer (Planning)  Andrew Grace, OEOI	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
'd like to ask if the Planning Department has considered extending S0/S1 on Cummins from Sycamore all the way Hyde Park Ave? Especially with the investment in the former Irving School site, we should be necouraging more people to live nearby and improving the area's walkability.	Nate Stell	nate.stell@gmail.com	Hi Nate: While we're always interested in hearing from property owners and others in the area, along Cummings, Washington Street, and Belgrade we've had to calibrate and judge to make sure we don't get too far from what we've planned for (centered on Rozzie Square), and particularly the community engagement to date.			Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Why is the S4 zone so big? Why are there no S3 zones? Seems like that giant S4 district could do with a more nuanced approach, with some areas within that larger area being zoned lower, say S1 or S2.	Anonymous Attendee	теления внансон	engagement to date. If ianonymous: When we looked at mapping this zoning, we thought the increased requirement for active use and outdoor amenity space in S4 versus S3 were particularly important. We fully anticipate that many buildings and uses within that area will not redevelop or change, so the area will continue to include a mix of smaller buildings and uses with new larger ones over the long-term.			Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Has the SO zoning been considered more broadly in the 1/2mile area around Roslindale square? It seems that the focus on corridor streets is somewhat arbitrary and more housing development would be possible (addressing our housing crisis faster by upzoning beyond simply the core corridors).	Luke Winslow	lawinslow@gmail.com	Hi Luke: Yes, we did take into account that option as part of one of the community visions for the area, while also acknowledging that there is also another community vision that would further constrain the area and intensity of rezoning. As a planning department, we've tried to balance those different, valid perspectives on the appropriate scale of possible change. That said, we are as part of this process, taking further feedback, particularly from property owners who are interested in being included in the rezoning.			Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Why is an S5 area zoned directly abutting Adams park? Large buildings will cause shadows on park. Perhaps a smaller zoning district should be considered across from the park?	Anonymous Attendee		Hi anonymous: The SS district includes the highest outdoor amenity space of any highly-active district. While the size of lots being rezoned to the north of Adams Park make it highly unlikely that a maximum buildout of height would be possible, we think the high level of active use and the higher outdoor amenity space would be important in that location.	2/27/2025 18:46	2/27/2025 18:48	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Thank you for your answer, Kathleen. Isn't there already a lot of outdoor amenity space within Adams Park?	Anonymous Attendee		Yes! There is - and we think that any development that happens on private land can be designed to be complementary (so outdoor dining, balconies, green infrastructure/expanded streetscape that helps expand and complement the park feeling, green terraces/roofs, etc).	2/27/2025 18:51	2/27/2025 18:54	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
We are increasingly uncomfortable, with how the Squares and Streets initiative is playing out in Roslindlae. All communities are not being treated equitably.  1. Codman Square was taken off the table for at least a year. This was decided at a meeting on January 21 with Chief Shen and others from the Planning Dept. He shared a committeent to pause Square and Streets in Codman Square and Four Corners. Chief Shen also committed to do a Fair Housing Audit, which looks tracial equity in the process along with the idea of an impact analysis.  2. Field's Corner is still in process. Indexes – however much slowed down. For example, the Planning Dept. although having office hours, seems to have had its last event in August (per the website – please correct as needed).  3. Hyde Park Small Area Plan release has been postponed twice now.  And Roslindale Square? We asked that the comment period for the Small Area Plan start after the December holdsday/vacations. We were given 5 extra days instead. This played out poorly for us.	Laurie Radwin	laurel e.radwin@gmail.com	Thanks for your comment.	2/27/2025 18:52	2/27/2025 18:55	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
This played out poorly for us. Specifically, the Coalition tried to schedule in-services at the local churches who had no time on their schedules until after January 1, 2025.  Our zoning was written during the Small Area Plan comment period, it seems. This was verified by Josh McCorkle, our ONS representative. To this point, the zoning draft was released on February 14 - the day thefer the BPDA Board vote. Last weekend, I re-visited one of the churches. Due to their events, there is no ime in March before the comment period ends to hold a discussion open to their parishioners. In add sicussed earlier with Califih how the timing has played out. Yee, the first event was in January 2024. However, you were "out of the field for a total of 5 months between January 2024 and today with to discernable, publicly noticed events.  Lam sure it's not news that the community is feeling very very rushed. The community writ large, not just he Coalition. It is hurfulf to see how other communities are getting more time to	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Hi Laurie: I'm sorry that you feel that way.			Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
it is hurful to see how other communities are getting more time to it is hurful to see how other communities are getting more time to discuss and think about the changes, and yet Roslindale does not have more time. I am hoping that there is some way to provide additional time to engage the community in Roslindale. We understand that the Administration believes there is a severe housing crisis. If this is the case, why are we the only community working at this speed while others are getting more time.	THE PARTY III	жения предпавления	Hi anonymous: I look forward to you continuing to participate in the extensive series of community	2.22023 16.32			The Control of Control	
Thank you for your consideration of this input,	Anonymous Attendee		engagement that continues over the next month.	2/27/2025 18:53		Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
It's a matter of equal treatment.	Anonymous Attendee		Thanks for your comment.  Hi anonymous: The Planning Department stands behind the significant effort and time in this planning.	2/27/2025 18:53	2/27/2025 18:55	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
You are welcome. Given the concern about equal treatment, how could the Planning Department uncliorate this situation	Anonymous Attendee		process, and is deeply grateful to sustained participation of many members of the Roslindale community in this process.  Hi anonymous: All of the city is subject to a procedure called Demolition Delay, in Article 85, which requires study of alternatives to demolition. Demolition is also carefully considered in Article 80 review	2/27/2025 18:55	2/27/2025 18:57	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
How will historic buildings within the planning area like the Cobleigh Building be protected from demolition and redevelopment?	Anonymous Attendee		for larger scale projects. While we take these tools seriously and use them assidulously, our ability to stop demolition is also limited by a private property owners rights to their own property (including demolishing it). So it is very important to engage property owners directly in preservation!	2/27/2025 18:57	2/27/2025 19:12	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
This is fabulous work; thank you. I look forward to more housing, more rozzidents, more businesses.	, ,		C / secret / It was a CoO I shall secure and wheel and			(		
What a refreshing change after so many decades of no growth.	Alan Wright	alnwright@gmail.com	Hi Alan: Thanks for your comment.	2/27/2025 18:57	2/27/2025 18:58	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	

## 20250227\_Zoom Q&A Log

Given that Chief Shen has agreed to give Dorchester a fair housing analysis and an impact study. We feel that, in all fairness, Roslindale should have these analyses/studies. My Question: Will you please provide			Hi anonymous: I think since these are really more comments than questions, it might be better to raise					
a fair housing analysis and impact study in Roslindale before sending the zoning plan forward for BPDA			your hand and give them (or feel free to submit a longer comment by email so we can make sure it's					
Board/Zoning Commission vote.	Anonymous Attendee		published together).	2/27/2025 18:57	2/27/2025 18:58	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Hi, I just wanted to say thank you for all this work, I know this process has been going on for over a year								
and I'm glad to see we're almost at the end! I'd just like to speak in favor of inreasing the envelope of area considered S5, particularly the area around between Corinth and South streets. I would also support			Hi Colin: Thanks for your comments. We are studying the surrounding residential as part of the					
shifting the map to S1 along all of Belgrade and Washington streets. Lastly, is there any planning to			neighborhod housing initiative - we're hoping to have some recommendations in the next few months:					
adjust 2/3F zoning districts around the square to S0 to better reflect the varied housing in these districts?	Colin Parmalee	colin.parmalee3@gmail.com	https://www.bostonplans.org/neighborhood-housing	2/27/2025 19:00	2/27/2025 19:03	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
A second question if I may. This is from a number of business owners in the core commercial district. In anticipation of Squares and Streets rezoning, we are already seeing businesses at risk. For example, a								
Honduran immigrant owns an auto body shop that has been in Roslindale for 24 years. He will have to								
move so that								
the landlord can build condominiums. The owner's lawyer gave a displacement cautionary note – city anti								
displacement provisions put into place will very likely be challenged in court. This makes the Planning								
Department's assertions of protection feel even less certain. Question: What funding can the City of Boston offer to								
this auto								
body shop owner right now to help him relocate his business - including first and last month rent, security								
deposit, moving current equipment, and other relocation costs	Anonymous Attendee		live answered	2/27/2025 19:00	2/27/2025 19:23	Katharine Lusk	katharine.lusk@boston.gov	
area of the second of the seco			Hi Laurie! Please feel free to identify yourself and your first person account. As I was not in that meeting,					
I have a first person account from the January 21 meeting with Dorchester and Chief Shen	Anonymous Attendee		I will of course confirm with the Chief.	2/27/2025 19:02	2/27/2025 19:04	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Has there been ay consideration of bringing these zoning changes to the areas around the intersection of Cummins Highway and Hyde Park Ave. For example, the SW Community Garden, which is owned by								
the MBTYA, is used by around 65 people to grow a few vegetables every summer. This property could			Hi Alan: Yes, we've been thinking about that. It's a hard balance between wanting to complete the					
support several multi-story apartment buildings in addition to plentiful community green space while			corridors (on Washington, Belgrade, Washington, etc) and being true to the fact that this plan (and the					
making mopey for the MBTA	Alan Wright	alnwright@gmail.com	engagement on the plan) has been centered on Rozzie Square and the general radius.	2/27/2025 19:06		Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Big apology for the anonymous thing. This window is new to me.	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Thanks - it's trickier but hopefully is easier to keep track of for everyone than a rolling active chat!  Hi Sarah-As I wrote earlier, our small business team resources and programs can be found here: https:	2/2//2025 19:06	2/2//2025 19:07	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
			//www.boston.gov/departments/economic-opportunity-and-inclusion/help-small-businesses. While the					
			City/OEOI presently does not have direct financial resources to mitigate/subsidize rents, our small					
Can someone from OEOI talk more about assistance for small businesses and rents? The only grants I've			business team neighborhood managers do work closely with small businesses to match them with the technical resources we do have available (found at the above link), as well as connect them to other					
seen have gone to those who already secured a space, can they apply for rent help before securing a			partners/organization who may have financial resources. We'd be happy tto have a conversation with you-					
space? it brings much less scary risk of not being able to make rent.	Sarah Martin	saraheprinty@gmail.com	feel free to message either Donald or I directly, and we will connect you to one of our colleagues.	2/27/2025 19:06	2/27/2025 19:21	Andrew Grace, OEOI	andrew.grace@boston.gov	
Can someone from OEOI talk more about assistance for small businesses and rents? The only grants I've seen have gone to those who already secured a space, can they apply for rent help before securing a			Sarah -The Mayor's Office of Housing also provides an important resource for small businesses located on the ground floor of affordable housing developments. Through their Affordable Commercial					
space? it brings much less scary risk of not being able to make rent.	Sarah Martin	saraheprinty@gmail.com	Assistance Fund, the development can offer below market commercial rent for ground floor tenants.	2/27/2025 19:06	2/27/2025 19:27	Katharine Lusk	katharine.lusk@boston.gov	
I'll note that there are other city of MBTA owned vacant properties near that along Fowle & Rowe street								
that could be built on.	Alan Wright	alnwright@gmail.com	Thanks for this comment.	2/27/2025 19:08	2/27/2025 19:21	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
For all. Here is a manual of best practices for small business handbook. https://antidisplacement. org/toolkit/	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Thank you for your comment.	2/27/2025 19:08	2/27/2025 10:15	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
For all. Here is a manual of best practices for small business handbook, https://antidisplacement.	Lauric Radwin	ladici.c.iadwin@ginan.com	Thank you for your comment.	2/2//2023 17:00	2/2//2023 17:13	Rauncen Onaier (Flamming)	kauncen.onaren@boston.gov	
org/toolkit/	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	live answered	2/27/2025 19:08	2/27/2025 19:15	Katharine Lusk	katharine.lusk@boston.gov	
			Thanks Laurie - we have definitely drawn on the great work of the Small Business Anti-Displacement					
For all. Here is a manual of best practices for small business handbook. https://antidisplacement. org/toolkit/	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Network's to develop both existing and forthcoming tools to mitigate displacment and help stabilize small businesses.	2/27/2025 19:08	2/27/2025 19:20	Katharine Lusk	katharine.lusk@boston.gov	
oops. AntiDisplacement for Small Businesses	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Thank you for your comment.	2/27/2025 19:09		Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
Question: Would the Planning Department please share the information sent to you about the 89% of								
those in one of the lower income area of Roslindale had never even heard of Squares and Streets. Over 100 clients at 2 Roslindale Food Pantry events were asked in Spanish, Kreyol and English. Not a single								
one had heard of Squares and Streets. These are the people who are not here. So, remarks about folks who								
one had heard of Squares and Streets. These are the people who are not here. So, remarks about folks who aren't here being in favor of Squares and Streets do not square with this data. (no pun intended)	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Thank you for your comment.	2/27/2025 19:13	2/27/2025 19:14	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	
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## 20250227\_Zoom Q&A Log

If my main concern is affordable housing, as it is, I don't see that this plan—by expanding commercial development in a gentrifying area—will achieve that. Inclusionary zoning is not a strong enough tool. Can 33 you persuade me I'm wrong?	Pam Varley	varleypamela@gmail.com	Hi Pam - In addition to inclusionary zoning - which is now required for developments with more than 7 units - our colleagues in the Mayor's Office of Housing work with responsible developers and land trusts to help buy and deed restrict existing "naturally' affordable housing. The City's new Boston Acquisition Fund was created to support even more of this. They also monitor expiration of any deed restricted housing and intervene to provide financial support to assistance to make sure it stays affordable.	2/27/2025 19:31	2/27/2025 19:46	Katharine Lusk	katharine.lusk@boston.gov	0
			Hi Pam, Here is a link to the City's webpage on Inclusionary Zoning: https://www.boston. gov/departments/housing/inclusionary-zoning#resources-					
Thank you. Can you send me links for the current inclusionary zoning definition and the provisions to support all-affordable developments, along with definitions of "affordable"? Thanks.	Pam Varley	varleypamela@gmail.com	Among the resource links, is a link to the Article 79 text in our Zoning Code, which defines the parameters and levels of affordability for units.	2/27/2025 19:36	2/27/2025 19:40	Ilana Haimes   Planning Department	ilana.haimes@boston.gov	0
35 By send, I mean just put them here in the chat!	Pam Varley	varleypamela@gmail.com	Hi Pam - Article 79 of the Zoning Code - Inclusinary Zoning - contains the requirements and thresholds for inclusionary zoning in the city https://library.municode.com/ma/boston/codes/redevelopment_authority/modeld=ART79INZO	2/27/2025 19:37	2/27/2025 19:40	Eileen Michaud, Planning Department	eileen.michaud@boston.gov	0
36 I would like to see that too, Pam. Thanks for asking this.	Anonymous Attendee		Writing hi - so that I can publish this to be visible	2/27/2025 19:37	2/27/2025 19:49	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	0
Andrew, thank you. I always appreciate your grounding in what is and what is not. There was a lawyer at one point from OEIO, I believe. At an abutter's meeting, though, the landlord's lawyer said that they will not provide relocation costs. This is the issue, really, for all of our small businesses, so I appreciate your offer of help. As you know, we are asking that no re-zoning occur until antidisplacement policies are 37 codified and FUNDED. (Forgive the CAPITOLS, please. I will give the family your contact information.	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Is this Tech Auto? Donald and I did meet with him a coiuple of times, and another member from our team (Emily) connected him with an attorney, who was going to review his lease.	2/27/2025 19:38	2/27/2025 19:43	Andrew Grace, OEOI	andrew.grace@boston.gov	0
38 Has the City engaged in a conversation with the MBTA about developing the two commuter lots?	Steven Gag	stevengag@gmail.com	Hi Steve: We have talked to them. They do not have plans to pursue redevelopment at that time.	2/27/2025 19:42	2/27/2025 19:42	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	0
39 Thanks Ilana and Eileen	Pam Varley	varleypamela@gmail.com	You're very welcome (-all of the staff team)	2/27/2025 19:42	2/27/2025 19:44	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	0
am anxious that the recording studio be maintqined above the Centre Cuts, IT is vital to musicians of all kinds. How about a Historical designation.?	Danna Fortunato	dannateach@aol.com		2/27/2025 19:43				0
41 Taly's Auto	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Publishing	2/27/2025 19:46	2/27/2025 19:51	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	0
Right. His biggest worry is relocating his auto shop and keeping his customer base. At the meeting, he was told that he had one year and one year only.	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Publishing	2/27/2025 19:47	2/27/2025 19:51	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	0
43 At least that's what I understand.	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com	Replying so that this is published.	2/27/2025 19:47	2/27/2025 19:50	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	(
44 Is there a CDC for Roslindale?	Cheryl Rosenberg	cherylrosenberg@gmail.com	Hi Cheryl! Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation serves the Roslindale area: https://www.swbcdc.org/	2/27/2025 19:48	2/27/2025 19:49	Abdul-Razak Zachariah   Planning Department	abdul-razak.zachariah@boston.gov	0
Getting back to the MBTA lots - pleased to see the S5 recommendation because this could really be a 45 beautiful addition to the neighborhood and bring dozens of new families into the neighborhood.	Steven Gag	stevengag@gmail.com	Thanks Steve - we think the combo of parking, housing, and amenity space/commercial use at the MBTA lots is a really good long-term vision to zone for (and want to thank all of the residents who have given us great, detailed feedback about how to improve their walks to the station)	2/27/2025 19:49	2/27/2025 19:50	Kathleen Onufer (Planning)	kathleen.onufer@boston.gov	0
Agree!! There has been a veritable smorgasbord of events!! And we appreciate that. Your own statistics show clearly who you have reached.	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com		2/27/2025 19:52				0
and who you have not. It is process OF COURSE but we have to look at outcomes too. We are still available to partner with you as we have shared multiple times.	Laurie Radwin	laurel.e.radwin@gmail.com		2/27/2025 19:52				0
I wish the city would implement a vacancy tax to motivate building owners to rent, build or sell. For example, on Roslindale Ave near Albano there are two large commercial garages that marginally used by 48 the owner.	Alan Wright	alnwright@gmail.com		2/27/2025 19:54				0