



# City of Malden

Malden City Hall  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

## Meeting Minutes - Final Personnel/Appointments Committee

*Councillor Winslow, Chair*  
*Councillor Colon Hayes, Vice Chair*  
*Councillor Crowe*  
*Councillor Linehan*  
*Councillor Spadafora*

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Tuesday, February 6, 2024

6:30 PM

City Hall, Room #108  
215 Pleasant Street

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### Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Councillor Stephen Winslow, Amanda Linehan and Craig Spadafora

**Absent:** 2 - Councillor Karen Colon Hayes and Peg Crowe

Also Present:

John King-Board of Appeal

Alicia McNeil-Solicitor

Maria Luise-Mayor's Office

Councillor Winslow called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

### Minutes to be Approved

### Business

#### [51-24](#)

Mayoral Reappointment: John P. King, 67 Upham Street, Malden, as member of the Board of Appeal, having served since April 4, 2000, said term to expire May 1, 2026, to commence upon confirmation by the City Council.

**Attachments:** [John King Reappointment Letter](#)

*John King gives the committee a little background of what the Board of Appeals does. He explains their job is if people feel that they have been harmed by either decision of the Building Department or the zoning is to restrictive its our job to listen to their case and make a decision whether or not a variance should be granted on that particular case. He said it shouldn't happen to often. Councillor Winslow asked John if there is anything that helps him be a good ZBA member. John said they have courses with Citizens Planning throughout the year. They have good basic zoning and planning board courses. He believes that the City pays for the cost (\$50) of the course. Councillor Winslow said in terms of variances in zoning relating particularly with housing you have become more restrictive there has been some decisions the Council has been made about taking away discretion from the ZBA what if we went back to giving more discretion. John said zoning laws are very tough we don't craft them the Councils does. We interpret the intent of the ordinances and what the ordinance says and he sometimes attends meeting when the decision of the Council is made and also what the citizens are talking about also. The reason to grant a variance has to be very specific. Not everyone coming in should get one. He said the ordinance says this is how we want our City to be if you pass it that's what it should be. Councillor Linehan said she has heard from some members*

*previously on the Board of Appeal that their hands are tied and they felt they are seeing the bigger picture of the development and benefit to the community but it is black and white as it comes before the board and they are looking to us to make changes that would allow development to happen a little more flexibly and she wonders if that is a frustration he shares or do you look for the Council to be able to support the board. John said he feels it is the intent of the what the City wants and they have to give the board that guidance of how they want the City to look. Councillor Spadafora asked in the decision making process, how do you make those impartial decisions and if the Board works well together in making the decisions. He agrees we need to make changes and modernize the times there is a lot of opportunity along the bike path does the board vote collectively does the board go out together to check the property? John said he goes out to see the property but he doesn't see the members till the night of the meeting. They try to make independent decisions. He said the current board is good they all do their homework and take the courses when they are offered. Councillor Spadafora feels it is important to have a strong Board of Appeals. He supports the re-appointment of John King.*

**A motion was made by Councillor Spadafora, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the Appointment be recommended favorably to the Full City Council. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## **Other Business**

## **Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Spadafora, that this meeting be adjourned 6:59 PM. The motion carried unanimously.**