

SECOND PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION TO BE HELD
Information Regarding Smart Growth Overlay District to Be Presented

Adams, MA –The Town of Adams will hold a second public information session at the Adams Visitors Center, 3 Hoosac Street, on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Town’s proposed adoption of the Smart Growth Overlay District, also known as Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40R. Responding to positive feedback after the first meeting held in September, Town officials requested the Adams Planning Board postpone their vote on the adoption of the Smart Growth Overlay District to allow more time for an additional public information session in an effort to reach more people and answer additional questions.

The Adams Planning Board has proposed that the Town’s Zoning Bylaws be amended to establish a Smart Growth Overlay District. The purpose of the district is to encourage the revitalization of existing buildings through preservation, reuse, renovation and repurposing of underutilized historic structures using a mixed-use concept that typically includes both commercial and residential components. Successful mixed-use projects, similar to Adams’ own Berkshire Mills Apartments, may help achieve several local, community and regional goals such as downtown revitalization, expanding the tax base, diversifying the Town’s housing stock composition, and increasing the amount of available housing to attract new residents that will serve the Berkshires workforce. By adopting a Smart Growth Overlay District, the Town of Adams hopes to position itself to access State incentive payments, maintain a consistent high level of design quality for such projects, and emerge as a premier place to live, work and play in the Berkshires.

Anticipated topics to be addressed at the public information session include what is the Smart Growth Overlay District, what is the potential economic impact of such development in Adams, and an overview of the proposed bylaw and how it will work. The Adams Planning Board is anticipated to vote on the adoption of the Smart Growth Overlay District in late November, after the second Public Information Session.