



Land Use Committee



Land use touches almost everything that impacts our quality of life – the form and function of our neighborhoods, the benefits and challenges of living in a hilly, forested area with lots of creeks and streams, and the balance between welcoming newcomers while not pricing out longtime residents. So much of the work of the SWNI Land Use Committee this past year involved those three key issues.

We continued our engagement in the city’s comprehensive planning process. The recently adopted 2035 Comprehensive Plan was finished last year, but many details were left to be worked out in the implementation stages, and the SWNI land use committee members attended numerous hearings and presentations, reviewed documents, and submitted testimony on a wide range of nuanced elements related to how the city plans to accommodate future growth and development.

We focused a lot of our time and attention on the City’s Residential Infill Project because the proposals had the potential to address significant concerns with overly large and incompatible residential development. Proposals also risked increasing the pressure to demolish the older, smaller, and more affordable homes in our area. The impact on our particularly wet, hilly, and forested area was not addressed in the one-size-fits-all solutions being proposed. Our testimony was key in making some changes to the proposals, and we remain committed to following the process as it progresses to code implementation this year.

In the coming year, the City and thus the Land Use Committee will be looking more closely at how we develop our multi-family housing to ensure that apartments, condominiums, and other such developments remain and become enjoyable, attractive, affordable and safe homes for nearly half of the area’s residents.

