Dear Members of the Town Council,

I am writing to urge your consideration and support for the vital necessity of hiring a full-time town planner for our community.

As a member of the Planning Board for a number of years it is clear that the town requires a planner position.

We need someone who can coordinate the entire journey for residents and businesses from inquiry and application to final occupancy. It has been brought to our attention by multiple applicants that the current process is inefficient, unclear, and not user friendly. Such as lack of follow-up to inquiries and issues.

Planning Board has been frustrated over the last years especially with lack of communication, complete information, and details on applications being brought before us. We have receive communication from multiple parties often that is piecemeal at times. We require a single voice that can be our liaison for all communications and information. Business owners continue to complain to board members that our town is currently not business friendly the way we are doing to it now.

As a board we are also tackling many issues currently that are focused on tackling ordinances, initiatives, and maps to deal with the growth Lisbon has been experiencing. We are attempting to ensure all our ordinances are consistent, easy to understand, and rational for property owners. We are using the maximum bandwidth we have available from NorthStar Planning but we could be doing more with a dedicated planner.

Here are several compelling reasons why investing in a full-time town planner is crucial for the future well-being and sustainable development of our town:

Strategic Urban Development: Our town is growing rapidly, and with growth comes the need for strategic urban planning. A dedicated town planner will have the expertise to assess our current infrastructure, land use patterns, and community needs, and develop comprehensive plans to accommodate growth while preserving the unique character of our town.

Economic Prosperity: Effective town planning working with Economic Development Director is can attract new businesses, support local entrepreneurs, and foster economic growth by creating an environment that is conducive to investment and job creation.

Community Engagement and Participation: Engaging residents in the planning process is essential for ensuring that development decisions reflect the values and priorities of our community. A full-time town planner with the Planning Board can facilitate meaningful public participation, solicit feedback, and build consensus around important planning initiatives.

Compliance and Regulation: Town planning involves navigating a complex web of regulations, zoning laws, and development codes. Having a dedicated professional who is well-versed in these matters can ensure that development projects comply with legal requirements and adhere to best practices in planning and design.

In conclusion, the benefits of hiring a full-time town planner far outweigh the costs. By making this investment, we can proactively address the challenges facing our town, capitalize on opportunities for growth and improvement, and ultimately build a more resilient and prosperous community for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Shaun J. Carr
Planning Board - Chair