



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

**#169-23**  
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April 24, 2023

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to reappoint Michael Rossi of 20 Rose Drive, West Newton 02465 as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. His term of office shall expire on April 30, 2026 and his appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

RECEIVED  
2023 MAY -8 PM 3:02  
CITY CLERK  
NEWTON, MA. 02459

**Application Form**

**Profile**

Michael

First Name

J.

Middle Initial

Rossi

Last Name

mrossi@connkavanaugh.com

Email Address

20 Rose Drive

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Newton

City

MA

State

02465

Postal Code

**What Ward do you live in?**

Ward 3

Mobile: (617) 645-5416

Primary Phone

Business: (617) 348-8215

Alternate Phone

Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal  
Peisch & Ford, LLP

Employer

Attorney

Job Title

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Zoning Board of Appeals: Submitted

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

**Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?**

I am writing to express my interest in being reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). I was first appointed as an Associate Member of the ZBA in 2013 and became a full member in 2018. I was elected by my colleagues as Vice-Chair of the Board in 2022, and as Chair in January, 2023. Over the past decade, I have sat as a hearing panel member on dozens of matters, including several comprehensive permit applications under Mass. Gen. Laws c. 40B. I have enjoyed this experience and would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve for the following reasons. First, I have come to see that the ability to evaluate zoning petitions fairly, thoughtfully, and critically is greatly improved with experience. With each hearing I have attended, I have become more adept at interpreting the zoning laws, identifying the key issues in a particular petition, and finding areas of compromise, where appropriate. Recently, I have gained experience in chairing meetings. Having gained this valuable experience over the past ten years, I am eager to put it to use in a way that furthers the values and interests of the City. Second, the ZBA currently is comprised of individuals with varied professional backgrounds, which, in my view, contributes to the Board's effectiveness. My background as a litigation attorney enables me to bring a unique perspective to the ZBA. Not only is there some substantive overlap in the work that we do, but the skills I rely on daily as a litigator — i.e. the ability to apply the law to a particular set of facts, or to understand the strengths and weaknesses of a particular legal position — have proven to be quite valuable in my work on the ZBA. Finally, it goes without saying that zoning and housing issues are of critical importance in the City at present. While the role of the ZBA is to evaluate petitions dispassionately, and with only the law in mind, it is meaningful to me to play a small role in shaping the future of the community in which I grew up (NNHS Class of '97), and in which my wife and I are raising our two daughters (they are 14 and 11 and attend Day Middle School). I am grateful for the opportunity to have served on the ZBA over the past ten years and would be honored to continue to serve in this capacity in the future. If there is any further information I can provide that would be helpful to you, please let me know. My current resume is attached. Thank you for your consideration.

[RESUME - Michael Rossi 4-5-23\\_ZBA\\_.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

## MICHAEL ROSSI

20 Rose Drive • Newton, MA 02465  
(617) 348-8215 • mrossi@connkavanaugh.com

### LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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**CONN KAVANAUGH ROSENTHAL PEISCH & FORD, LLP**  
**Litigation Partner**

Boston, MA  
July, 2013 to Present

- Conduct all aspects of pre-trial investigation, claim analysis, discovery, and motion practice in diverse civil litigation practice focused on professional liability and business litigation.
- Serve as lead counsel for trials, disciplinary hearings, mediations, arbitrations, and appeals in state and federal courts, and before administrative agencies.
- Counsel claims professionals, in-house counsel, and individual clients regarding litigation management and strategy.
- Manage and oversee associate attorneys on litigation matters, client relations, and business development.
- Selected as “Rising Star” and “Super Lawyer” in General Litigation by *Law & Politics* and *Boston Magazine*, 2011-2022.
- Advise firm attorneys on legal ethics matters as Risk Manager Partner.

**CLARK, HUNT, AHERN & EMBRY**  
**Litigation Attorney**

Cambridge, MA  
April, 2008 to July, 2013

- Represented individual, organizational and corporate clients in general liability, real estate and commercial disputes.

**MORRISON MAHONEY, LLP**  
**Litigation Attorney**

Boston, MA  
August, 2006 to April, 2008

### PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

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- City of Newton Zoning Board of Appeals; Member since 2013; Chair since January, 2023.
- Stone Rehabilitation & Senior Living (Newton, MA); Member of Board of Directors since 2017.
- Newton Cemetery Corporation; Member of Board of Trustees since 2021.
- Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association; Law Affinity Group Leader and former Chapter President.
- Massachusetts Bar Association; member and volunteer since 2006.
- Massachusetts Bar Association Leadership Academy Fellow, 2016.
- New Hampshire Bar Association; member since 2006.
- International Association of Defense Counsel; member since 2022
- Boston American Inn of Court; member 2011-2019.

### EDUCATION

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**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL**

Boston, MA

Juris Doctor, May 2006, *Cum Laude*

*Honors:* Dean's List

*Suffolk University Law Review*, Note Editor

National Mock Trial Competition Team, 2005-06

S.J.C. Rule 3:03 Certified Student Prosecutor, Middlesex County District Attorney's Office

**THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, May 2001

*Honors:* Dean's List