



Town of Arlington  
Office of the Town Manager

Adam W. Chapdelaine  
Town Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 13, 2019  
TO: Board Members  
SUBJECT: Appointment as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission

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This memo is to advise the Select Board of my intent to appoint Michael Gildesgame, of Arlington, MA, as an associate member to the Conservation Commission, with a term expiration of 06/30/2022.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adam W. Chapdelaine".  
Town Manager

## Mike Gildesgame

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### Experience:

2007 – 2012 **Southern New England Policy Manager**, Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston MA

Developed policies and advocacy positions to protect natural resources based on sound science; worked collaboratively with other non-profits, citizen groups, state and federal agencies, legislators and others to promote wise management of forests, waters and other resources and to promote education, conservation and recreation in wilderness areas and more urban environments. I also identified collaborative approaches to resolving environmental management disputes.

1987 – 2007 **Director**, Office of Water Resources, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation, Boston MA

Led and supervised a multi-disciplinary team of scientists, engineers and planners in developing natural resource management policies, developing and evaluating water resource management projects, carrying out and or supervising hydrologic research to address a variety of complex environmental problems; managing projects and programs including the state Lakes and Ponds Program, Flood Hazard Mitigation, Drought Management Planning, and the cooperative hydrologic programs with the US Geological Survey.

1984 – 1985 **Research Associate**, Tropical Science Center, San Jose, Costa Rica

Researched the policy and management strategies that enabled the Costa Rican National Park Service to successfully establish and protect the forest resources within the park system; examined the underlying political, social and economic conditions that enabled their success and investigated the potential for replicating these conditions in other countries.

1977 – 1980 **Resource Analyst**, Chas. T. Main, Inc., Boston MA

Designed, managed and participated in projects analyzing the environmental and socio-economic impacts of international and domestic public works projects for power generation, water resources and rural development. Served clients in Ecuador, Egypt, South Korea, Canada and the US.

1976 – 1977 **Associate Program Manager**, Smithsonian Institution-Peace Corps Environmental Program, Washington DC

Provided overseas on-site program management and evaluation for Central American and Caribbean natural resources management ministries and Peace Corps offices in formulating projects for highly skilled MS/PhD volunteers in natural resources and environmental programs. Facilitated host country interagency cooperation, coordinated agencies' activities, analyzed project effectiveness, identified technical, administrative and financial requirements for projects. Served clients in Honduras, Dominica, El Salvador, Belize and others.

### Education:

1984 – 1990 **PhD**, Clark University, Graduate School of Geography. Focus area: Resource Management

Studied the impact of human activities on natural systems and the links between environmental protection and economic development. Dissertation research studied the history of the Costa Rican National Park Service and sought to identify how and why it was generally successful in protecting forest resources when many other Latin American countries were less successful.

1972 – 1976 **Master of Forestry**, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR

Developed a technical understanding of forest ecology and the practical aspects of forestry and forest management. In my Masters paper, I studied how American attitudes toward "wilderness" developed and changed over time, and the public policy implications for those changing notions and ethos.

1964 – 1968 **BA, Political Science/International Relations** American University, Washington DC

#### **Certifications:**

**Trained Mediator** Completed 40 hours of mediation training in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 233 s. 23C with MWI Boston MA. Practicing since 2012.

#### **Volunteer Experience:**

1968 – 1970 **US Peace Corps Volunteer**, Cuenca, Ecuador

Carried out land exploration, mapping, and surveying in Ecuador's Amazon highlands to establish town sites and to form agricultural and cattle cooperatives to promote local economic stability and resource access in an area to be connected to the national road system.

2014 – Present **Steering Committee Member**, Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, Boston MA

The Coalition brings together organizations and institutions across MA to address the epidemic of gun violence in suburbs, rural areas, and cities through education, advocacy and holding those in power accountable.

2013 – Present **Vice President**, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Boston MA

Based on Jewish values, JALSA works through multiple coalitions to engage the community in promoting civil rights, protecting civil liberties and achieving social, economic, environmental, and racial justice.

2013 – Present **Chair**, Friends of Israel's Environment

Friends of Israel's Environment is committed to strengthening environmental protection in Israel as an essential foundation for a thriving economy and safe and healthy communities for all Israelis, including underserved communities. Since 1991, FIE has supported the work of Israel's Union for Environmental Defense, Israel's leading environmental, public health and advocacy organization.

#### **Publications:**

*Conflicts in Siting Wind Energy Facilities: The Massachusetts Wind Energy Siting Reform Act*, Consensus Building Institute, Cambridge MA, 2013.

## OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

DIANE M. MAHON, CHAIR  
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TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
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August 22, 2019

Michael Gildesgame

Arlington, MA 02476

Re: Appointment: Conservation Commission, Associate Member

Dear Mr. Gildesgame:

As a matter of the standard appointment procedure, the Select Board requests that you attend a meeting of the Select Board at Town Hall, Select Board Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, on Monday, September 9th at 7:15 p.m.

It is a requirement of the Select Board that you be present at this meeting. Your presence will give the Board an opportunity to meet and discuss matters with you about the area of activity in which you will be involved.

Please contact this office to confirm the date and time with Fran, Ashley, or Lauren at the above number.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
SELECT BOARD

*Marie A. Krepelka*  
Marie A. Krepelka  
Board Administrator

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