

Edward Nilsson, candidate for re-election to the Planning Board

My wife Frances and I have been Marblehead residents for 43 years residing at 28 Naugus Ave. where I built one of the first active solar-heated homes in Marblehead. As Principal of Nilsson + Siden Associates, Architects and Planners, I have a diverse interest in both historic preservation and sustainable planning. A long-time Planning Board member, five years as Chair, I have served on many ad hoc town committees, such as currently on the REV250 town committee.

Giving back to the town and maintaining the character of Marblehead have always been top priorities for me. Serving also on the Design Review Board and the Historical Commission has given me a wider appreciation of Marblehead's special features. When I was Chair, I initiated numerous changes that have become essential tools in identifying and protecting the unique character of Marblehead: these include Site Plan Review, the Coastal Overlay Shoreline District, and the Comprehensive Master Plan Update of 1989, and about to be updated again in 2025 with a grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

Deep knowledge of the Marblehead zoning bylaws is important for the Planning Board to provide a clear and balanced service to the community. This knowledge base helps the Board's transition from previously one staff planner to the newly created Department of Community Development with its many new staff and committee members becoming familiar with the town.

This past year I have been active in making sure that all new housing bylaws, such as Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) and MBTA Communities Act, include Site Plan Review – a safety net to help preserve the unique character of Marblehead, now and in the future. I respectfully ask for your vote on June 10th. Experience counts!