

STEVEN M. RAFSKY

Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award

The John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee annually awards Westwood's highest honor to an individual who has been remarkable in service to the community. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, for many years selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community, both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize the spirit of community involvement illustrative of John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure we announce Steven M. Rafsky as the eighteenth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Steve was first appointed to serve as a member on the Finance Commission in 1989 and worked for many years to promote economic development and tax stability for the town.

In 1991, Steve was elected to and served on the Planning Board until 1997. He was re-elected to the Planning Board in 2009, and would serve until 2015. As a Planning Board member, Steve was first appointed Chair in 1994, and then appointed again as Chair in 2010, 2011, and 2014. Steve was instrumental in shaping the University Station master redevelopment plan and associated zoning. Over the course of a decade, Steve was a leader in working with numerous residents, town boards and consultants, to develop wide spread support for the redevelopment. In addition to his time on the Planning Board, he served as chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board and co-chair of the University Avenue Redevelopment Committee.

Throughout his tenure on the Planning Board, Steve was closely involved in the redevelopment of the Prime Dealerships on Providence Highway, as well as the development and adoption of multiple Zoning Bylaw amendments, including new Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD) and Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) bylaw sections, as well as significant improvements to Westwood's Wireless Communication Overlay District (WCOD) zoning.

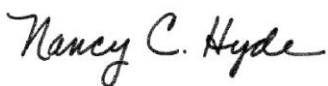
Steve worked collaboratively with the Library Board of Trustees and the Westwood Historical Commission on the plans for the new Main Library and the redevelopment of the Colburn School Building. He also chaired the Lowell Woods acquisition effort, which resulted in adding 70 acres of protected land for open space and recreational use. Steve also played a significant role in planning for the renovation of Morrison Park and for the redevelopment of the Islington Center Fire Station.

While serving the Town in varying capacities for the better part of three decades, Steve gave generously of his time and demonstrated the qualities of leadership, dedication and service. His opinions were valued by the Planning Board, Town Staff, Elected Officials, and other Boards and Committees.

Steven, and his wife, Greta, have been Westwood residents for over 30 years. They have two children who grew up in Westwood. Steven has been a successful executive in the finance and accounting fields, frequent public speaker and active volunteer for over thirty-five years.

He has been active with several charities since 1974, when Steve served as national Vice President of the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America. Currently, he serves as President of the Leader Foundation, a charitable foundation providing assistance to needy, elderly individuals; and is on the Board and Treasurer of the New England Friends of the March of the Living. Steve is also active with his synagogue where he is a past board member.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Steven M. Rafsky and add his name to the plaque displayed in Town Hall listing all previously honored individuals.



Nancy C. Hyde, Chair



Michael F. Walsh, Clerk



John M. Hickey, Third Member