

EDWARD J. RICHARDSON

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 Edward Richardson as the twentieth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Edward, "Ned", was first appointed to serve as a member of the Permanent Building Committee in 1990 and served until 2010, serving as Chair from 1999 to 2008. During this time, he shared his extensive knowledge of zoning subdivision law and real estate law.

During his tenure, Ned was involved in the design, renovation, and construction of the Martha Jones Elementary School, Downey Elementary School, Thurston Middle School, and Westwood High School. He oversaw the construction of the athletic fields associated with the Thurston Middle School and Westwood High School. In addition, Ned played an integral role in the design and construction of the Carby Street Municipal Office Building and the Westwood Senior Center.

In 1993, Ned was elected to and served on the Planning Board until 1998, serving as Chair in 1995 and 1996. He was instrumental in the creation of the Town of Westwood Development Guide, which provided a comprehensive guide of bylaws, rules, and regulations governing the town's land use development process and was used to define the roles of each regulatory board in the process. During this time, in conjunction with the Town Centers Steering Committee, the Board prepared a Town Centers Strategic Plan to look to improve the aesthetic quality and economics of the town's two commercial centers, High Street and Washington Street. During his tenure on the Planning Board, the Board directed the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan, and the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the first comprehensive effort to prioritize open space and recreation goals. A major outcome of his time on the Board was the option to purchase the 68-acre Lowell Woods parcel.

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

He has been an active member of the American Legion Post 320 in Westwood for 38 years, and currently serves as the Post Adjutant. The American Legion is a service organization committed to the mentoring and sponsoring of youth programs in the community, advocating patriotism, and service to fellow service members and veterans. In 2021, Ned served as the Grand Marshall for the Memorial Day Observation and Ceremony.

Ned and his wife, Kathryn have been Westwood residents for over thirty-years. He earned his Juris Doctor (JD) from the Suffolk University School of Law and has been an active member of the Massachusetts State Bar since 1973, where he has been a successful attorney in the field of probate, real estate, and zoning law.

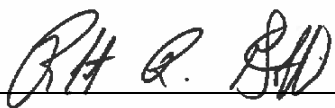
On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Edward J. Richardson and add his name to the plaque displayed in Town Hall listing all previously honored individuals.



Michael F. Walsh, Chair



John M. Hickey, Clerk



Robert R. Gotti, Third Member