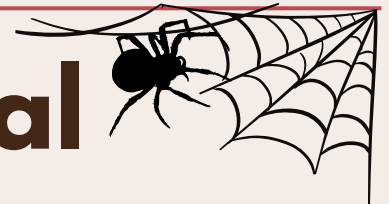


# Carver Journal



## Have some Halloween fun!

It's Halloween week! There are lots of events around town to celebrate the spooky season. Check them out:

### Hear the tale of the headless horseman

Catch the play Legend of Sleepy Hollow at the Historic Union Church Oct. 28 through Nov. 2. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors and can be purchased online.

### Town hall trick or treating

On Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m., bring your kids to the trick or treating at the town hall with the library's Tuesday story hour group. Wear a costume, bring a goodie bag and meet at the Carver Public Library.

*Continues on page 2.*

## Town overwhelmingly rejects MBTA zoning plan, evading compliance for now

by Nick Mossman

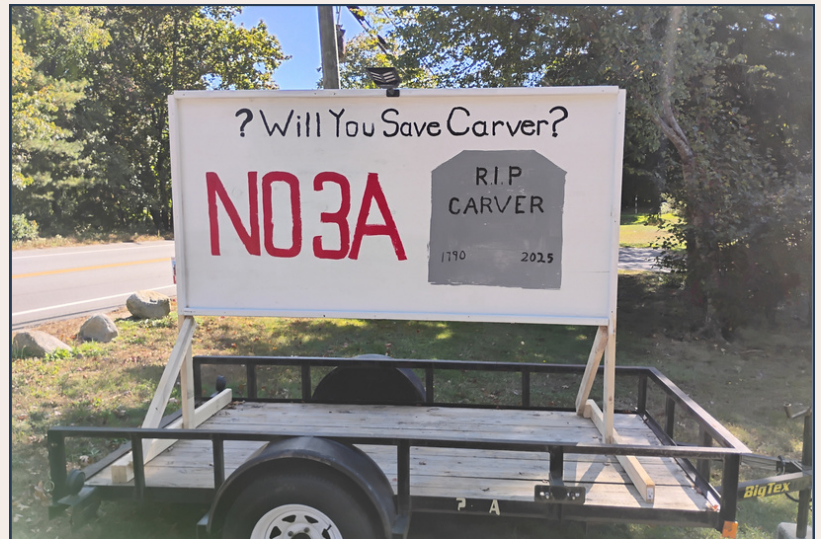
Residents at a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7 rejected a plan 26-394 that would have opened the door for more multi-family housing in Carver.

The vote sidesteps a state mandate that requires Carver to zone for 235 units suitable for families with children, which, if constructed, could put additional townhouses and duplexes in town.

Carver is one of 177 towns required to rezone for multi-family housing by the end of this year. The law was created to address the state's housing crisis by allowing multi-family developments near commuter rail stops.

Since Carver is located near Middleboro, Kingston and Halifax — all of which have commuter rail stops — it is classified as an "adjacent small town." Although, each station is about a 20 minute drive from the center of Carver.

In August, the planning board voted 3-1 to propose 30-32 West Street, currently occupied by Ferreira's Used Cars & Parts, as the site to rezone to meet the requirements.



One of the many signs throughout town in opposition to the state's proposed MBTA Communities Act. Photo by Paul Owen

But prior to the town meeting, the planning board reversed course.

According to Planning Board Chair Mari Ellen Williams, the board unanimously voted to indefinitely postpone its proposed MBTA compliance plan.

"This article that was presented to us is not anything that any of us wanted on the planning board," Williams said.

Since early August, Town Planner Thomas Bott has consulted with Barrett Planning Group to determine sites Carver could rezone for while following the state's guidelines.

Williams said that the group's proposal came back to the town with the potential for 839 units of multi-family housing, which far exceeds the state's required 235 units.

Williams said that the board agreed to the Barrett group's proposal with the understanding that there would be a limit of 235 multi-

family housing units and open space on the rezoned property.

"Turns out, that is not the case," she said. "It's not what we want."

The move sparked heated questions among some voters, including resident Bob Belbin, who argued that the town should take an immediate vote on the proposal, rather than postpone it.

"Who created this? And who went ahead and reviewed this?" Belbin said. "We all came here to vote on this article for MBTA, okay, so whose head should we put on a platter to say, guess what? You need to be fired because you screwed up."

Belbin said that the Town Planner, Town Counsel and Board of Selectmen put the article on the warrant and that reconsidering it is wrong.

"We're gonna vote on this 'yes or no' and I think a lot of people out here are gonna

### MBTA zoning vote continued

vote it down," Belbin said, generating applause from the crowd.

Planning board member Cornelius Shea also asked voters to postpone a vote on the article.

"Give the planning board a chance to sort it out," Shea said. "...This is our community too."

Despite the planning board's pleas, residents voted 181-240 to reject postponing the vote and ultimately turned down the proposal outright.

Without a compliance plan, Carver risks losing access to certain state grants if it fails to comply with the MBTA housing law by the end of this year.

The planning board could create another proposal to comply with the MBTA law before the end of the year, although it is currently unclear if it will.

If it does, that proposal would have to pass a majority of voters at another town meeting before Jan. 1. And if it doesn't, Carver will officially join the list of just over a dozen non-compliant Massachusetts towns risking grants and lawsuits to rebel against the state's requirements.

Contact Nick Mossman at  
[nick@carverjournal.com](mailto:nick@carverjournal.com)

### Calling all writers!

Interested in writing for Carver's newspaper? Get in touch! The Carver Journal is looking for volunteers to cover events, town government and other related issues. Prior experience in journalism is welcomed, but not required.

### Our Mission

The Carver Journal strives to publish accurate information about news and events happening around our town. Our goal is to increase residents' knowledge about what's going on in Carver, promoting public engagement and awareness.



### Did you know that the Carver Journal has even more content online?

Interested in learning more? Getting involved? For more stories, photos, calendars and other info, check out our site at [carverjournal.com](http://carverjournal.com) or contact [stories@carverjournal.com](mailto:stories@carverjournal.com)

### High school set to change sports banners

by Alana Burbine



The proposed redesign of the banners. From the Carver Public Schools website.

Recently, a group of school faculty, including coaches, teachers, administrators, and a member of the Athletic Boosters submitted a proposal to alter the design of the sports banners that currently hang in the Carver Middle High School gymnasium.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, the Carver School Committee unanimously voted to approve moving forward with the banner design changes.

Concerns over the consistency of the banner designs, the achievements being recognized, additional sport-specific achievements, and the quality of the current banners have been expressed by those advocating for a change, including the high school's athletic director Kelsey Kincade.

"I am a big advocate for this new banner project [...] so that our gym has more consistency across all the banners [...], and just giving our gym a more updated look," Kincade said.

The plan was proposed to the school committee by Kincade at the end of last year, and has recently been reviewed at a school committee meeting in September.

Some students, like senior Ainsley Rogers are concerned about the cost of changing the banners.

"I think they should fix it up definitely, but I want my school's money to go to more important things," she said.

Contact the Carver Journal at [stories@carverjournal.com](mailto:stories@carverjournal.com)

### Things to do continued

#### Show off your Halloween fit!

Brewery 44 in North Carver will host a costume party on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Entry is \$20 per person and includes appetizers and DJ entertainment.



#### Play a fast-paced dice game with the Council on Aging

The Carver Council on Aging is hosting a Halloween game of left, right, center to win a prize pool of candy on Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 12:30 p.m. Register by calling 508-866-4698 x3.