



Boston Concord Hanover Manchester



Robert H. Miller  
Direct dial: 603.627.8145  
Fax: 603.641.2380  
rmiller@sheehan.com

#### Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Business Litigation  
Entertainment, Media and  
Publishing  
Intellectual Property and  
Technology  
Real Estate and Finance  
Zoning, Planning and Land Use

## Ask The Expert - Mass High Tech

### What is the functional difference between the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment?

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

The Board of Selectmen is the group of municipal officers, possessing certain executive powers, elected by a Town to transact general public business including the issuance of licenses and permits, policy initiation, and appointments to Town Boards and Commissions. The Planning Board is the arm of local government charged with evaluating and recommending the approval or disapproval of proposed building and development projects. The Zoning Board of Adjustment is the quasi-judicial arm of local government charged with hearing requests for variances and special exemptions from the Town's zoning ordinance, as well as appeals of most grievances arising from the decisions of other Town officials. Because land use issues are often complicated and time-sensitive, potential concerns should be immediately raised with a lawyer well versed in this area of law.

Additional information for this attorney  
may be found on our website.

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Manchester, NH | Concord, NH | Hanover, NH | Boston, MA  
800-625-SPBG (7724)