

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING ADVISORY BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Amended: 4/10/90, 6/27/2000, 1/15/2002, 4/9/2002, 4/18/2006, 2/27/2007, 11/11/2008, 12/2/2008

1. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Chairs of advisory boards shall review applications and complete a recommendation Form ~~Summary of Applications form~~. The Board of Aldermen will make all appointments.
- b. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen should endeavor to assure that the membership of the advisory board represents many sectors of the community and offers opportunities for new applicants to serve.
- c. In addition, applicants should be committed to attending meetings, participating constructively in the work of the board, making fair decisions, and treating citizens, staff and other board members with respect.
- d. Members are limited to two full terms. After completing two full terms, a member must take off one year before applying for re-appointment to the advisory board. However, a board member may apply to serve on another advisory board if he/she desires. The Board of Aldermen may make exceptions to this rule under the following circumstances:
 1. To retain diversity on an advisory board;
 2. To provide continuity in oversight of a major, on-going project;
 3. To keep a member who provides expertise otherwise unavailable on an advisory board (e.g., an engineer on the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment); or
 4. A lack of qualified applicants.
- e. Membership shall be limited to one seat on the following boards and commissions Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Appearance Commission, Transportation Advisory Board, Recreation and Parks Commission, ~~Cable T.V. Committee~~, Human Services Commission, ~~Cemetery Commission~~, Environmental Advisory Board, ~~Downtown Development Commission~~, Northern Transition Area Advisory Committee, Arts Committee and OWASA Board of Directors.
- f. Applicants serve three-year terms unless the applicant is filling an unexpired term.
- e. Appointments begin on February 1st.

2. ~~APPLICATIONS FOR EXPIRED TERMS~~ APPOINTMENTS TO REGULAR TERMS

- a. Each October the Town Clerk will advertise that the town is accepting applications for upcoming openings on advisory boards and commissions in February.
- b. All candidates must complete an application to be considered for appointment or reappointment.
- c. Applications will be taken for 30 days.

d. By November 15th, the Town Clerk shall forward copies of applications to the chairs of the boards and commissions and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

e. Applications received after the Town Clerk has forwarded applications to advisory board chairs will be kept on file for a period of one year and considered for future vacancies.
~~Applications will be maintained on file until the following October.~~

- f. The Town Clerk will notify all applicants in writing of receipt of his/her application and give a status report on his/her application.

3. ~~APPOINTMENTS TO EXPIRED TERMS~~

ga. ~~By November 15th, the Town Clerk shall forward copies of applications to the chairs of the boards and commissions and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.~~

hb. Each chair shall contact his/her applicants and invite them to at least one meeting of their board so they may understand the responsibilities of the board and the necessary time commitment. (Chairs should contact Town staff in the event of a language barrier.) The chairs shall also talk with the applicants about their interest in serving on the advisory board. Board chairs may meet personally with applicants if a meeting of their board is not anticipated within 30 days following receipt of the applicant's request for appointment. This would be in lieu of having the applicant attend a meeting of that board or commission. If applicants do not attend a meeting after two phone calls or emails, then the Chair shall notify the Town Clerk of that fact and he/she will remove the application from consideration.

c. By January 31st, the chair of each board shall submit a Recommendation Form ~~Summary of Applications form~~ to the Town Clerk. Copies of all applications and recommendation forms received shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

d. If there are no applicants for the Board in question, the Chair may contact applicants that have applied for other boards. Board chairs should contact the Town Clerk to obtain these applications.

- f. If a ~~Summary of Applications~~Recommendation Form~~-form~~ has not been received from board chairs by January 31st, the Town Clerk shall contact the chairs and request a status report.
- g. By ~~March 1~~February 15th, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will make appointments to boards and commissions to fill expired terms.

4. APPOINTMENT TO UNEXPIRED TERMS~~APPLICATIONS FOR UNEXPIRED VACANT TERMS~~

- a. If a vacancy occurs on a board or commission and the Town Clerk has two or more applications for that specific board or commission, no further advertisement will be necessary. If two or more applications are not on hand, the Town Clerk shall advertise the vacancy for one month.
- b. Upon receipt of any application, the Town Clerk shall notify the applicant in writing of receipt of his/her application and give a status report on whether vacancies exist.

5. ~~APPOINTMENTS TO UNEXPIRED TERMS~~

- a. Within two weeks following the one-month advertisement, the Town Clerk shall forward copies of applications to the chair of the board or commission on which the vacancy exists along with copies to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.
- b. The chair shall contact his/her applicants and invite them to at least one meeting of their board so they may understand the responsibilities of the board and the necessary time commitment. (Chairs should contact the Town staff in the event of a language barrier.) The board chair may meet personally with applicants if a meeting of their board is not anticipated within 30 days following receipt of the applicant's request for appointment. This would be in lieu of having the applicant attend a meeting of that board or commission. If applicants do not attend a meeting after two phone calls or emails, then the Chair shall notify the Town Clerk of that fact and he/she will remove the application from consideration.
- c. Within four weeks following the advertisement, the chair shall submit a Recommendation Form~~Summary of Applications~~-form to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Copies of all applications received shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.
- d. If there are no applicants for the Board in question, the Chair may contact applicants that have applied for other boards. Board chairs should contact the Town Clerk to obtain these applications.

- e. If a ~~Summary of Applications~~Recommendation Form has not been received from the chair within four weeks following the advertisement, the Town Clerk shall contact the chair and request a status report.
- f. Within six weeks following the advertisement, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will make the appointment to fill the unexpired term.
- g. Appointments to unexpired terms of 6 or fewer months will be simultaneously appointed to the following 3-year term.

6. ATTENDANCE

- a. The chair of each board or commission shall file with the Town Clerk an attendance report on a quarterly basis indicating if members are present or absent.
- b. Unless the chair waives the requirement, members shall be removed if they are absent from three consecutive meetings or if they miss more than 30% of the meetings during a 12-month period. The Town Clerk shall notify the chair in writing as soon as a member becomes subject to removal under this section. The chair will have 10 days after receipt of such notice to waive the removal. If the chair fails to notify the Town Clerk in writing within ten days after receipt of such notice that the automatic removal requirement should be waived, the Town Clerk will send a removal notice to the member. This removal shall be effective on the date of such notice.

Comments from EAB Chair –

2. APPLICATIONS FOR EXPIRED TERMS

- a. Each October the Town Clerk will advertise that the town is accepting applications for upcoming openings on advisory boards and commissions in February.
- b. All candidates must complete an application to be considered for appointment or reappointment.
- c. Applications will be taken for 30 days.

Is 30 days an adequate length of time? I imagine this has been policy for quite some time. I might suggest 45 days, beginning filing time with Sept 15th. I defer to experience, but if others have raised this concern, it oughta be considered.

6. ATTENDANCE

- a. The chair of each board or commission shall file with the Town Clerk an attendance report on a quarterly basis indicating if members are present or absent.
- b. Unless the chair waives the requirement, members shall be removed if they are absent from three consecutive meetings or if they miss more than 30% of the meetings during a 12-month period. The Town Clerk shall notify the chair in writing as soon as a member becomes subject to removal under this section. The chair will have 10 days after receipt of such notice to waive the removal. If the chair fails to notify the Town Clerk in writing within ten days after receipt of such notice that the automatic removal requirement should be waived, the Town Clerk will send a removal notice to the member. This removal shall be effective on the date of such notice.

I was un-aware that chairs needed to monitor attendance and file reports.

Thanks,

I think the document is sound.

Matthew

Comments from Planning Board Chair:

- Would like all candidates to attend at least one planning board meeting, notifying us in advance so we can do a proper greeting and also note that the person actually showed up.
- Would like ability to extend offer by phone or e-mail to answer questions/talk about responsibilities and time commitment related to planning board membership. Candidate does not have to say yes, but this offers some exposure opportunity. This might mean as applications come in, the chair and vice chairs, and board liaison get notified.
- Would suggest a non-subjective checklist that allows BOA to see the level of exposure: attended a meeting; met with one planning board member; demonstrates understanding of responsibilities and time commitment; adds racial, ethnic, age, or gender diversity to Board; adds geographic diversity to the Board; has particular skill currently needed on the board (list: _____) or something like that.
- Alternatively, would like the opportunity in advance of application review to tell the board (perhaps through the liaison) whether there are particular needs we have.
- Skip the summary of applications. It's a waste of time...

Comments from the Board of Adjustment Chair:

These are my first thoughts. See attached with comments.

By the way, any reason that sections 2 & 3, and 4 & 5 can't be combined?

2+3 = Process and Procedure for Appointment to Regular Terms

4+5 = Process and Procedure for Appointment to Vacant/Unexpired Terms. (by the way, aren't "vacant" and "unexpired" the same thing for this purpose?)

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 2. To provide continuity in oversight of a major, on-going project;
 3. To keep a member who provides expertise otherwise unavailable on an advisory board (e.g., an engineer on the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment); or
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- e. Membership shall be limited to one seat simultaneously on the following boards and commissions Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Appearance Commission,

Comment [DGC1]: Doesn't seem to cover applicants or others who often are not citizens but are making applications, e.g. developers.

Comment [DGC2]: Might be a better way to word it.

Transportation Advisory Board, Recreation and Parks Commission, Cable T.V. Committee, Human Services Commission, Cemetery Commission, Environmental Advisory Board, Downtown Development Commission, Northern Transition Area Advisory Committee, Arts Committee and OWASA Board of Directors.

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- c. Applications will be taken for 30 days.
- d. Applications received after the October 31st deadline will be kept on file for future vacancies.
- e. Applications will be maintained on file until the following October.
- f. The Town Clerk will notify all applicants in writing of receipt of his/her application and give a status report on his/her application.

Comment [DGC3]: This section seems to be for appointment for regular terms-not expired terms.

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Comment [DGC4]: Same comment as above

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- c. Within four weeks following the advertisement, the chair shall submit a Summary of Applications form to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Copies of all applications received shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Comment [DGC5]: If the Aldermen and Mayor are going to get this later (see #c) from the Chair with recommendations, is this needed at this point in time also? Seems redundant.

- d. If there are no applicants for the Board in question, the Chair may contact applicants that have applied for other boards. Board chairs should contact the Town Clerk to obtain these applications.
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