



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Administration Building
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617 972-6465

Residents' Advisory Committee Wednesday, May 17, 2023 Minutes

Attendees

Committee Members: Liz Cremens, Sam Ling, Kathryn Madden, Thomas Tracy (not present Theo Offei)

Administrative

A motion was made to recommend to the City Manager the re-appointment of three incumbent Conservation Commission members (Leo Martin, Jamie O'Connell, and Maria Rose), and this was seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. This was deemed a priority because these three terms had expired on February 15, the incumbents expressed interest in continuing, no one else applied, and there is still one more vacancy to fill.

A motion was made to recommend to the City Manager the re-appointment of an incumbent Board of Health member (Dominic Amirtharaj), and this was seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. This was deemed a priority because this term had expired in February, the composition of the three-member Board must include a physician, Dr. Amirtharaj is a physician, and the only other person that applied is not a physician.

A motion was made to recommend to the City Manager the re-appointment of three incumbent Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) members (Jill Hyde, David Leon, and Leo Patterson), and this was seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve this recommendation. The AHT was recently created, and these three positions were one-year terms expiring June 30, 2023. Since the AHT met for the first time on September 22, 2022, these incumbents had not yet served a full year. They are now being recommended for a three-year term. One other person applied to be on the AHT, but also applied for another Board/Commission.

Discussion

The next set of priorities for interviews are the following Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

- Watertown Housing Authority: four people are being considered for one position.
- Solid Waste Committee: three people are being considered for two positions.
- Council on Aging: five people are being considered for four positions.
- Traffic Commission: three people are being considered for one position.

At the next meeting, the RAC should discuss the next steps for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (three positions are on holdover status, with term expirations on February 15, 2023). Another top priority is the Public Arts and Culture Committee (PACC) because there are currently three vacancies and term expirations for three other positions are November 2023. The City Council is expected to

consider a proposed resolution that will affect the composition of the PACC, so the RAC will wait to hear this outcome. The Cultural Council also has seven positions that come to term on May 15, 2023; it would be helpful to have a clearer understanding of the relationship and distinction in the mission of the two cultural committees.

After the next round of interviews, the RAC should consider meeting with the City Manager again to discuss and reflect on the process to date.

Action Steps

1. Liz Cremens to forward recommendations for Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and the Affordable Housing Trust to the City Manager
2. The next RAC meetings will be on June 7, June 14, and June 15, starting at 4:30 pm on all three evenings, with the intent to interview candidates for WHA, Solid Waste, Council on Aging, and the Traffic Commission, including time to deliberate on recommendations.
3. Kathryn Madden to continue to update and reconcile the roster of current members on all boards, commission, and committees and the comprehensive summary of the Board, commission and committee responsibilities, with the intent to share this with Jeanne Williamson Ostroff, Social Media/Web Coordinator, in order to update the City web pages.
4. The RAC would like to talk to the City Manager about the communication process for candidates who are selected and those that are not.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Minutes: Submitted by Kathryn Madden, May 18, 2023, revised June 13, 2023