

Clerks corner 5.2019

Land use committees in Wenham

Local election time is over in Wenham and appointment season is beginning. There are only thirty-five elected seats in the Town of Wenham but there are many more officials needed for all the committees, boards and commissions within Town. These seats are filled by appointment. Most appointments in Wenham start July 1st and have 1, 2 or three year terms. Committees have differing missions, different numbers of members, and different amount of meetings. Three of the boards that do have some openings all deal with the land use; the Open Space and Recreation Committee asks for a 1 year commitment, an associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals has a 2 year term and members of the Conservation Commission serve for three years.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee was started in 2016 and is made up of residents who have a diversity of interests and experiences. Exciting things coming up for this committee include the implementation of their approved Open Space and Recreation Plan. In particular they will begin work on a Town Wide Trail mapping project this summer, and they will be installing a granite bench along Wenham Lake on Cedar Street. They generally meet at Town Hall monthly on Monday or Wednesday evening. Please reach out to an OSRC member for more information; chair Ernest Ashley, Asma Syed, Ann Weeks, or Tom Starr. The Zoning Board of Appeals abides by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, 40B & 41 and the Wenham Zoning Bylaws. The Board meets on monthly and hears and decides on applications for special permits, appeals and petitions for variances from regulations governing dimensions of land or structure among other things. They have been busy with accessory apartment applications. The ZBA recently approved a 40B at 40 Hull Street for 2 units of affordable housing. An associate member may be called on to fill in during any vacancy, inability to act or interest on the part of any full member of the Board. For more information on this opportunity please reach out to one of the current ZBA members; chair Anthony Feeheery, Dana Begin, Jeremy Coffey, or Evan Campbell.

The Conservation Commission meets twice a month on Monday evenings. The Con Com's role is to preserve and protect the integrity of the wetland systems in Wenham. The authority of the Con Com comes from the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wenham Water Resources Protection Bylaw. The Con Com members would love to hear from you; chair Phil Colarusso, Bob Burnett, Leo Maestranzi, Michael Novak, Malcolm Reid or Asma Syed.

If land use is not your cup of tea, there are many other opportunities to get involved within our community of Wenham. Rather than list them, please check them out on our new website at www.wenhamma.gov. Search under "How Do I?" for volunteer opportunities. Also on the website, you can find information on each and every department, committee/commission/board as well as meeting agendas and minutes.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and has achieved the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk in 2017. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to www.wenhamma.gov or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.