

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

February 16, 2024

6:30pm

Councilor Jeffrey Mendes (Chair)
Councilor Kris Clark (Vice Chair)
Councilor Kristin Terkelsen
Councilor Seth Burdick
Councilor Charles Bloom

MEETING MINUTES

Chair of Committee Councilor Jeffrey Mendes opened the meeting of the Appointments Committee in the Selectmen's Conference Room at 3:30pm and made the following announcement:

This meeting is being recorded and will be rebroadcast on the Town of Barnstable's Government Access Channel. In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 20, the Chair must inquire whether anyone else is recording this meeting and, if so, please make their presence known. This meeting will be replayed via Xfinity Channel 8 or high definition Channel 1072. It may also be accessed via the Government Access Channel live video on demand archives on the Town of Barnstable's website: <https://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>

The administrator to the Town Council took Roll call, all members present in person at the start of the meeting.

The Chair of Committee asked for public comment via the Zoom link provided to the Public.

Mr. Larry Morin (no comment, just listening) Mr. Bob Schulte (no comment just listening) Eric Schwaab (no comment just listening)

Chair of the Committee welcomed Mr. Joseph Taccogna who applied to serve on the Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Town of Barnstable
Application Form
Board/Commission/Committee Application Form


Name: D. JOSEPH TACCOGNA Address: 8 WINDING COVE RD, MARSTONS MILLS, MA 02548
Mailing Address: SAMS E-mail: JTACCOGNA@aol.com
Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) 508 726 9105
Educational Background: ST. MAURICE UNIVERSITY - B.A. 1976 ADLPHI UNIVERSITY - MBA PROGRAM 1978-1980 DID NOT COMPLETE - TRANSFERRED
ST. BONA'S UNIVERSITY - B.A. 1976 - SCHEDULED TO GRADUATE - 1980 - DID NOT COMPLETE
WILFRED LAWRENCE FOR CONSUMERS AND EMPLOYEES - CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING, REVENUE AND
WORK EXPERIENCE: ST. MAURICE DEVELOPMENT, BARNSTABLE, MA 02548 - STRATEGIC PLANNING, VP - SENIOR OPERATIONS
MANAGER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BARNSTABLE

Are you a resident and registered to vote in the town of Barnstable? Yes No Have you applied in the past? Yes No If yes, please when & which committee: _____

REQUIREMENT: TO SERVE, YOU MUST BE A RESIDENT AND REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE TOWN OF BARNSTABLE.

Please check (not more than five) of interest:

<input type="checkbox"/> Airport Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Elderly & Disabled Taxation Aid Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Kings Hwy Historic District Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeals, Hyannis Main Street Waterfront Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Assessors	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Neck Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Preservation Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Hyannis Main Street Waterfront Historic District Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish Advisory Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure & Energy Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust Fund Advisory Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Council on Aging	<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Eshbaugh Community Service Award Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Advisory Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Council (Mid-Cape)	<input type="checkbox"/> JFK Memorial Trust Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterways Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Disability Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition & Preservation Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Commission (high school students)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals

Signature:  Date: 10/6/2023

NOTE: Return completed form to: Barnstable Town Council Office, 367 Main St., Hyannis 02601, or FAX to: 508-862-4770. Or attach your application and email to Cynthia.lovell@town.barnstable.ma.us
Additional documents (letter of interest & resume) should be included as well. Please apply at all times even if a vacancy does not exist, as the membership changes often. If there are no current vacancies in your choice of appointment, your application will be kept on file for 2 years for future reference.

Rev 01/19/22

Chair of Committee asked the applicant about consensus and how does he believe you get there on the Committees.

Mr. Taccogna stressed the importance of consensus in decision making and the challenges faced by the town. He highlighted the need for a reset post-election and council reshuffling and underscored the importance of skills such as state compliance and regulations, drafting new legislation, and bringing people together to create consensus. There is a lot that goes into the decision making and highlighted the challenges faced by the town, including housing, water quality, environmental issues, and wind power. Mr. Taccogna suggested that the committee could evaluate, analyze, and devise strategies to address issues related to Park City, insurance, and other areas. He also emphasized the importance of skills such as state compliance and regulations, drafting new legislation, and bringing people together to create consensus. Mr. Taccogna expressed interest in infrastructure and energy, highlighting the fascination with planning, strategy, and logistics involved in large-scale engineering projects. Mr. Taccogna emphasized the importance of confidence in policy making and the need for a balance in policy making, where no one side gets everything, they want but all sides can make some compromises.

Councilor Terkelsen asked about Mr. Taccogna and his background and what makes him qualified to serve on the Infrastructure and Energy Committee, and if he has watched any of the meetings or attended any of them.

Mr. Taccogna's involvement with Corporate Law Firm and Cape Community Involvement and discussed the nature of his previous company, a corporate law firm that assisted with state compliance, incorporation papers, and merger documents. The company also maintained records and handled millions of lawsuits. As technology advanced, the company shifted towards developing software for law firms and consulting businesses on compliance. Mr. Taccogna looked for documentation on the Infrastructure and Energy Committee on the Town's web site and found just a limited amount of information, but he did read the charge of the committee on the Town Clerk's page in the e-code, so he is aware how they operate and what they are charged with.

Mr. Taccogna also shared that he has been living on the Cape part-time for over 20 years and moved there full-time about 6 or 7 years ago, and he expressed interest in volunteering and attending meetings to understand what's happening in the community.

The Committee members discussed the importance of finding the right fit for each role in the town's committees, rather than just filling seats. The Chair of the Committee would like to remind the Committee members on the need for a respectful and collaborative approach during interviews, focusing on simple questions and avoiding confrontation.

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the significance of consensus and compromise in a successful committee, stressing that differing opinions should not be seen as adversarial. There was also expressed concern over the increasingly combative nature of town interactions and the need to respect diverse perspectives.

The Committee members thanked Mr. Taccogna for coming in, the Chair explained the next step in the process, and noted that there are additional interviews being conducted for the same Committee and once they were completed the Appointments committee will decide on who to recommend to the full Council. Then the recommendation is on the Town Council Agenda for two readings, our administrator will be in touch with you either way.

The Committee members' discussion continued with the updating of the vacancy list on the Town Council web page, the administrator will update and include the upcoming vacancies for the Committees that have members expiring in June of 2024. That will be a separate list on the Town Council web page under potential vacancies. The Committee members discussed that current committee

members are not automatically reappointed and that new applicants must be interviewed for consideration.

The Committee members need to decide on the application window duration to prevent quorum issues. The Chair of the Committee discussed the need to establish a firm agenda to manage the growing number of openings on various committees and proposed extending the application period until the next meeting in March.

Councilor Clark also addressed questions about the visibility of these vacancies on the Town Council web page and stressed the importance of filling these positions. Councilor Burdick asked for a total of the current vacancies that exist on the Boards/Committees/Commissions. The Town Council Administrator answered a total of 14 to 15 vacancies were identified, with an expectation of approximately 30 more by the end of March.

The Committee Chair suggested meeting bi-weekly to speed up filling these positions. Committee members discussed scheduling a meeting for the first and second Friday of March. It was decided by the Committee members to tentatively schedule the first meeting March 1, 2024, at 3pm.

Councilor Terkelsen clarified she would not be present for that meeting due to a personal commitment.

The Town Council Administrator mentioned that the meeting would be recorded for those unable to attend, and she encouraged the submission of any questions in advance. She also noted that weather and travel issues had caused several people to miss the previous meeting.

The Committee members discussed the Licensing Authority. The Appointments Committee members would like to reinterview Larry and Nancy for the full member position that currently exists on the Licensing Board.

Town Council Administrator also had a correspondence form the Historical Commission and the possibility of promoting a historical committee member to the same position, but that is for a future Appointments Committee Agenda, it was mentioned only for the process in which this happens.

The Town Council Administrator explained the procedure for elevating a member from an alternate to a full member position.

Vice Chair Clark explained how the Historical Commission has a vacancy for a full member, and why the Committee Chair reached out to our Administrator, mentioning the passing of long-time member Nancy Clark (who was also mentioned at the Town Council meeting in our moment of silence) Vice Chair Clark mentioned the subsequent vacancies on various committees, proposing a strategy for reappointments and the management of potential vacancies. Vice Chair Clark emphasized the importance of keeping the application process for a particular committee open to all qualified applicants and expressed interest in comparing the number of applications received this year to previous years.

The Committee members discussed the importance of encouraging volunteers for town committees and emphasized the need for improved communication and transparency. Vice Chair Clark identified issues such as lack of reporting and visibility of committees' activities on the Town web site.

The Committee members discussed several solutions, including increasing the visibility of meetings, having council members present updates, requesting committees to report to the council, and evaluating the committees' performance, it was also suggested replacing members who could not attend meetings regularly if Committees have the membership but are having quorum issues.

Next steps

- Hold the application period open for 2-3 weeks for the Infrastructure and Energy Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals, and all other Committees.
- Committee members will reach out to the chair of the Licensing Authority to discuss the vacancy and potential candidates.
- Town Council Administrator will schedule interviews for Larry Decker and Nancy Carlson Lidman for the full member position on the Licensing Authority.
- Town Council Administrator will add the potential vacancy at the end of June 2024 to the vacancy list and label it “Potential Vacancies”.
- Reach out to committee chairs for their annual reports on 2023 activities.
- Consider asking for attendance reports from committees.

ADJOURN: 5:37pm