



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

CITY COUNCIL –
APPOINTMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE
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Appointments Review Committee

February 27, 2024
City Hall Chambers – Conference Room
5:30 PM

Committee Members Present:

David Walker, Chair
Chuck Creteau
Bryan Karolian
Matthew Richardson
Rachel Lawrence

Committee Members Absent:

Minutes

Review and Discussion of Applications and Current Board Membership

Chair Walker called the Appointments Review Committee meeting to order at 5:49 PM. The Committee reviewed the current vacancies on the City’s boards and commissions and reviewed the statements of interest coming before them.

New appointment(s):

Josephine Finocchiaro

Planning Board, Seat L (New Appointment, Alternate Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2027*

Ms. Finocchiaro spoke of her background as a nurse practitioner in child and family services. She acknowledged that she does not have a background in planning, however she is looking for volunteer opportunities and is interested in helping the City progress and become a better version of itself. Ms. Finocchiaro stated that she is willing to learn more about the board and review meetings and minutes to get up to speed with the Planning Board’s role in the City.

The Committee discussed the benefit of having new eyes and a fresh perspective on the Planning Board. Councilor Karolian **MOVED** to recommend the appointment of Josephine Finocchiaro as an alternate member of the Planning Board, Seat L, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Lawrence seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

~~**Kimberly Adams**~~

~~**Historic District Commission, Seat F (New Appointment, Alternate Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2026***~~

*Ms. Adams had submitted an email withdrawing her statement of interest prior to the Appointments Review Committee meeting.

Shawn Pierce

Arts & Culture Commission, Seat I (New Appointment, Regular Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2026*

Mr. Pierce spoke about his background as a professional photographer. He stated he is a 15-year resident of the City and the owner of Studio Two Seven Nine in downtown. Mr. Pierce explained that he founded the greater Rochester Camera Club 8 years prior and is currently preparing to take over as Chair of the NH Professional Photographers Association. The Committee discussed with Mr. Pierce the types of Art initiatives he would like to see in the City; such as temporary art installations to bring visitors to the community, and ways to involve local high school students in the Arts.

Councilor Creteau **MOVED** to recommend the appointment of Shawn Pierce as a regular member of the Arts and Culture Commission, Seat I, with a term to expire 1/2/2026. Councilor Richardson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Bryan Karolian

Conservation Commission, Seat H B (New Appointment, ~~Alternate~~ Regular Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2026*

Mr. Karolian spoke about his interest in the Conservation Commission and the integral role the commission plays in the City and in relation to the Planning Board. Mr. Karolian emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance between development and conservation land and acknowledged the value of both development and growth within rules and regulations, and maintaining recreational areas and green space. He spoke about his love of the outdoors and past professional experience which would be valuable on the commission. Mr. Karolian spoke about being guides by facts and established rules and laws, and in the absence of such, operating within the spirit of said rules to guide decision making while maintaining flexibility.

Chair Walker stated that regular member Seat B on the Conservation Commission was considered vacant because the prior member had not been attending meetings for some time and had not expressed intent to renew their now-expired term. He suggested that Mr. Karolian be recommended for the regular seat as opposed to an alternate position.

Councilor Lawrence **MOVED** to recommend the appointment of Bryan Karolian as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, Seat B, with a term to expire 1/2/2026. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

George Bald

Rochester Economic Development Commission, Seat G (New Appointment, Regular Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2026*

Mr. Bald detailed his extensive 40- year history in the fields of Economic Development and municipal government; serving multiple terms as Mayor of Somersworth during a time when a

“strong mayor” form of government was in place, Director of Economic Development for Rochester, City Manager of Rochester, and Executive Director of Economic Development for Pease Development Authority. Mr. Bald also served as a Department of Resources commissioner appointed by the NH Governor and was responsible for the State division of Economic Development. The Committee discussed with Mr. Bald his views on what REDC should prioritize and on what types of work and development he would like to see more focus.

Susan Rice

Rochester Economic Development Commission, Seat G (New Appointment, Regular Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2026*

Ms. Rice explained that she is a 13-year resident of Rochester as well as the business owner of Bartlett Yarns in downtown, with their woolen mill located in Harmony, ME. She spoke of the support and camaraderie of businesses in the downtown area and the role she fills in encouraging the younger generations and potential business owners; helping them make connections to resources within the City for the growth and development possible business ventures. Ms. Rice stated that she is a member of Rochester Main Street and the Lions Club. The Committee discussed with Ms. Rice her views on what REDC should prioritize and on what types of work she would like to see more focus, including how to fill vacancies in the downtown area.

- The Committee discussed the merits and qualifications of both candidates for Seat G on the Economic Development Commission and deliberated on which candidate would be the best fit for the single open vacancy.

Councilor Creteau **MOVED** to recommend the appointment of George Bald as a Regular member of the Rochester Economic Development, Seat G, with a term to expire 1/2/2026. Councilor Karolian seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Susan Rice

Planning Board, Seat ~~K~~ G (New Appointment, ~~Alternate~~ Regular Member) *Term to Expire 1/2/2025*

Ms. Rice detailed her employment history and administrative experience with multiple planning boards and Zoning Boards throughout the state of NH over 25+ years. She gave an overview of her prior roles and the relevant knowledge obtained which she felt would allow her to be a contributing member of the Rochester Planning Board. Ms. Rice spoke about her experience with development and growth management. She addressed the committee regarding her strengths in research and fine detail, which she felt would be an asset to the board and help guide informed decisions.

The Committee discussed Ms. Rice’s recommendation for an alternate position versus a regular position. The Planning Board’s current roster will still have one vacant regular position if Mr. McQuade is approved for elevation from his alternate position as listed later on the agenda.

Councilor Richardson **MOVED** to recommend the appointment of Susan Rice as a Regular member of the Planning Board, Seat G, with a term to expire 1/2/2026. Councilor Lawrence seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a majority voice vote.

Re-Appointments/Discussions:

The Committee briefly discussed the reappointments and elevations listed on the agenda. Chair Walker indicated that he had received correspondence from the relevant chairs and department heads associated with these committees/boards and that all the reappointments had been supported and recommended based on members' attendance and performance.

Dylan Dowe

Elevation from Alternate to Regular Member: Conservation Commission, Seat D *Term to Expire 1/2/2025*

Councilor Creteau **MOVED** to recommend the elevation of Dylan Dowe from an alternate member to a regular member, Seat D, on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 1/2/2025. Councilor Richardson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Kevin Sullivan

Reappointment: Conservation Commission, Seat A – *Term to Expire 1/2/2027*

Councilor Creteau **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Kevin Sullivan to seat A on the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Karolian seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Mark Jennings

Reappointment: Conservation Commission, Seat C – *Term to Expire 1/2/2027*

Councilor Lawrence **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Mark Jennings to seat C on the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Richardson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Merry Lineweber

Reappointment: Conservation Commission, Seat G – *Term to Expire 1/2/2027*

Councilor Lawrence **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Merry Lineweber to seat G on the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Richardson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Tanya Hervey

Reappointment: Rochester Economic Development Commission, Seat D – *Term to Expire 1/2/2027*

Councilor Lawrence **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Tanya Hervey to seat D on the Rochester Economic Development Commission, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Ronald Poulin

Reappointment: Rochester Economic Development Commission, Seat F – Term to Expire 1/2/2027

Councilor Creteau **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Ronald Poulin to seat F on the Rochester Economic Development Commission, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Lawrence seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Janet Davis

Reappointment: Rochester Economic Development Commission, Seat A – Term to Expire 1/2/2027

Councilor Lawrence **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Janet Davis to seat A on the Rochester Economic Development Commission, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Ralph Sanders

Reappointment: Utility Advisory Board, Seat A - Term to Expire 1/2/2027

Councilor Karolian **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Ralph Sanders to seat A on the Utility Advisory Board, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Lawrence seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Eli Barnes

Reappointment: Utility Advisory Board, Seat C - Term to Expire 1/2/2026

Councilor Richardson **MOVED** to recommend the reappointment of Eli Barnes to seat C on the Utility Advisory Board, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Lawrence seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Michael McQuade

Elevation from Alternate to Regular Member: Planning Board, Seat B Term to Expire 1/2/2027

Councilor Lawrence **MOVED** to recommend the elevation of Michael McQuade from an alternate member to a regular member, Seat B, on the Planning Board, with a term to expire 1/2/2027. Councilor Richardson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Creteau **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the Appointments Review Committee meeting at 8:06 PM. Councilor Lawrence seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk