



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

CITY COUNCIL –
APPOINTMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Appointments Review Committee

November 22, 2022

City Hall Chambers – Conference Room

6:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

James Gray, Chair

Laura Hainey, Vice-Chair

Dana Berlin

Amy Malone

Committee Members Excused:

Ashley Desrochers

Minutes

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on November 22, 2022.

New appointment(s):

Rick Healey – Planning Board, Seat M (New Appointment, Alternate member) Term to Expire 01/2/2025

Mr. Healey gave a brief overview of his prior history serving on City Boards and Commissions, including 10 years on City Council and the related subcommittees, co-creating the Rochester Government Channel, and a total of 14 years serving on the Planning Board. Councilor Berlin inquired why he was interested in serving on the Planning Board once again. Mr. Healey spoke of missing his service on the board. He said that, following a well-publicized property use proposal in Gonic, he had started attending the Planning Board meetings regularly, reviewing the packet information, and desiring to become more directly involved once again.

There was a discussion with the applicant regarding how he would have handled the previously referenced property matter and what he would have done differently had he been on the Planning Board, the need for affordable housing in the City, and zoning considerations related to these matters.

Councilor Malone **MOVED** to recommend to full Council the appointment of Rick Healey as an alternate member of the Planning Board, Seat M, with a term to expire 1/2/2025. Councilor Berlin seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Matthew Richardson – Planning Board, Seat A (Elevation from Alternate to Regular Member) Term to Expire 7/1/2024

Mr. Richardson said that he has been serving on the board for approximately a year and has been enjoying his time and learning quite a bit. Due to multiple member absences from the board, he has been frequently appointed as a voting member at meetings. Mr. Richardson stated that he has not missed a meeting to date. He reported that he has not had opportunity for trainings, however there were some upcoming. Mr. Richardson emphasized the importance of board members receiving trainings opportunities to keep the board cohesive. Councilor Hainey asked what has been the most challenging part of serving on the Planning Board. Mr. Richardson stated that he had not found it challenging outside of initially becoming accustomed to the review process itself and how the TRG, Conservation Commission, and other committees factor into the process.

Councilor Berlin **MOVED** to recommend to full Council the elevation of Matthew Richardson from an alternate to a regular member of the Planning Board, Seat A with a term to expire 1/2/24. Councilor Hainey seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

James Hayden – Planning Board, Seat D (Elevation from Alternate to Regular Member) Term to Expire 01/2/2025

Mr. Hayden stated that he had been serving on the Planning Board as an alternate of the past 6 months and was looking forward to moving into a regular position and being able to serve the board in a more predominant manner. He spoke about his background in land use development and as a civil engineer. Councilor Berlin asked if Mr. Hayden's professional background translated into the work being done on the Board. Mr. Hayden stated that his work experience gives him an advantage and enables him to be able to better read and understand plan sets and the finer details of projects coming before the board. He said he was looking forward to reviewing bigger projects with more detail; the board has seen a lot of subdivisions and lot line revisions during his tenure.

The Committee and Mr. Hayden discussed the Master Plan and Mr. Hayden gave his thoughts on the storm water chapter. There was discussion in Committee about development and related considerations regarding storm water. Chair Gray asked if Mr. Hayden had attended any trainings. Mr. Hayden stated that he has not attended any in-person trainings, but has reviewed the archives of online trainings.

Councilor Berlin **MOVED** to recommend to full Council the elevation of James Hayden from an alternate to a regular member of the Planning Board, Seat D, with a term to expire 1/2/2025. Councilor Hainey seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Berlin referenced the letter of recommendation from the Chair of the Planning Board that had been forwarded by the Director of Planning. The letter had recommended the elevation of both Mr. Richardson and Mr. Hayden from alternates to regular membership. Councilor Berlin stated that, although he does not necessarily disagree with the sentiments expressed in the letter, he does not feel the letter itself and the recommendations coming

from the Planning Board are appropriate. He stated that it was not the job of the Planning Board to make these recommendations but rather the responsibility and purpose of the Appointments Review Committee. He referenced a similar recommendation letter from the Planning Board in which board members had voted for their own appointments. He said he did not feel like the process had been followed ethically. Chair Gray suggested that in the future, when a board or commission sends a letter of recommendation, it should be made clear that the members in question should recuse themselves from the vote regarding their own appointment.

Re-Appointments:

Joan Strogon – Recreation and Arena, Seat A (Re-appointment, Regular Member) Term to Expire 01/2/2026

Councilor Berlin stated that he serves on the Recreation and Arena Commission with Ms. Strogon. He reported that Ms. Strogon she does not miss meetings and is an active, engaging member of the board.

Councilor Berlin **MOVED** to recommend to full Council the reappointment of Joan Strogon to the Recreation and Arena Commission, Seat A with a term to expire 1/2/26. Councilor Malone seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

A. Raymond Varney – Trustees of the Trust Fund, Seat C (Re-appointment, Regular Member) Term to Expire 01/2/2026

The Committee agreed that Mr. Varney is a valuable asset to the Trustees of the Trust Fund and will continue to serve the City well if reappointed.

Councilor Malone **MOVED** to recommend to full Council the re-appointment of A. Raymond Varney to the Trustees of the Trust Fund, Seat C with a term to expire 1/2/26. Councilor Hainey seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Chair Gray **ADJOURNED** the Appointments Review Committee meeting at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk