



TOWN OF
AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Town Manager
Phone: (413) 259-3002
townmanager@amherstma.gov

To: Town Council
Town Clerk

Fr: Paul Bockelman
Town Manager

Dt: October 30, 2019

Re: Munson Memorial Building Trustees Appointments

Appointments

With this memo, I refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the following names of people I desire to appoint as members of the Munson Memorial Building Trustees in accordance with Section 2.11(b) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter. Terms are effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

Three-year term (1):
(expires June 30, 2022) Jennifer Vanderleeden, 925 South East Street

Two-year term (1):
(expires June 30, 2021) Oliver Waldman, 1521 South East Street

Claudia O'Brien will continue as a member with her term expiring June 30, 2020.

Profiles

- Jennifer Vanderleeden: Ms. Vanderleeden is a resident of South Amherst and a frequent user of the Munson. She is in the building once or twice per week and walks past it on a daily basis. She is a certified yoga instructor and utilizes the Munson to teach her class. She is familiar with the building, its uses, and the procedures that the Trustees establish. She is especially interested in providing good security for the building.
- Oliver Waldman: Mr. Waldman is a native of Amherst, lives in South Amherst, and a long-time patron of the Munson Library. He grew up visiting the Munson and feels it is very important to pay attention to the physical needs of the building. As a practicing attorney, he brings a familiarity of small business projects and legal skills to the Board. He has two children in the Amherst Public School system.

Background

The charge for the Munson Memorial Building Trustees states that “Residents of South Amherst who use the Munson Library are preferred.”

Summary of Process

I assembled a team to conduct interviews. The interview team was comprised of Munson Memorial Building Trustee Claudia O’Brien, Community Participation Officer and person in charge of scheduling the Munson Jennifer Moyston, Residents’ Advisory Committee member Jim Pistrang, and Paul Bockelman, Town Manager.

The interview team interviewed all candidates. All team members asked questions and contributed to the discussion during the interview. At the conclusion of the interview, we agreed that the appointment and reappointment listed above would best serve the needs of the Committee.

Background Information

Below is the relevant section of the Charter for your review. Notice was posted on the Town Bulletin Board on September 19, 2019 in accordance with Section 9.12(e) of the Town Charter.

Section 2.11(b) of the Charter states:

Members of Multiple-Member Bodies: The Town Manager shall refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the name of each person the Town Manager desires to appoint as a member of a multiple-member body. Appointment of a member of a multiple-member body made by the Town Manager shall become effective on the 30th day after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the Town Clerk unless approved or rejected by a majority of the full Town Council within the 30 days.

TOWN OF AMHERST

COMMITTEE CHARGE

Name: HISTORY OF MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Appointing authority: TM

Town code: 23

Type: Committee

Town bylaw: no

Number of voting members: 3

Member appointment: 3 yrs.

Voting members to include (where possible): Residents of South Amherst who use the Munson Library are preferred.

Non-voting liaisons:

Committee charge summary:

The trustees oversee the general use of the Munson Memorial Library building and act as the community representative for the town with respect to the building. They schedule and collect fees for the non-library use of the building. Along with the Friends of the Munson Memorial Library, the trustees plant and tend the garden and take care of the shrubbery. (Lawnmowing and snow removal is done by the town.)

The trustees were created as a result of provisions in the will of Mary Munson, whose bequest in 1914 in memory of her husband allowed construction of the library to begin. After the Town Manager Act, the trustees came under his power of appointment (see se. 11c of the Act). The town now handles most of the operation of the building and the library services.

On June 15, 1998, the Select Board voted to designate board and committee members as "special municipal employees" under the terms and conditions of G.L. c. 268A.

The original item was published from 9/19/2019 11:49:00 AM to 10/27/2019 12:00:04 AM.

In the News

Amherst Bulletin Board

Posted on: September 19, 2019

[ARCHIVED] Multiple Vacancies on Town Boards & Committees

The Town Manager continues to seek volunteers to serve on Town Boards. Boards and Committees that have or may have vacancies include the Agricultural Commission, Community Preservation Act Committee, Cultural Council, Disability Access Advisory Committee,

The Town Manager continues to seek volunteers to serve on Town Boards. Boards and Committees that have or may have vacancies include the **Agricultural Commission, Community Preservation Act Committee, Cultural Council, Disability Access Advisory Committee, LSSE Commission, Munson Memorial Building Trustees, Participatory Budgeting Commission, Public Art Commission, and the Transportation Advisory Committee.**

A current list of vacancies [can be found here](#). A complete list of all boards and committees [can be found here](#).

Here is a little about each of some of the committees:

- Agricultural Commission: The Agricultural Commission supports commercial agriculture and other farming activities in the Town by promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities; acting as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; working for the preservation of agricultural lands; pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community; and reviewing and advising on development proposed in farmland areas, as may be permitted under zoning and other development regulations. We are looking for active farmers for this Commission.
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee: The CPA Committee studies the needs and resources of the Town regarding community preservation; makes recommendations to the Town Council annually for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, for the acquisition and preservation of historic resources, for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use, for the creation, preservation and support of community housing and for rehabilitation or restoration of such open space, historic resources, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in the Community Preservation Act.
- Cultural Council: The Cultural Council allocates state Arts Lottery funds and works to support and nurture arts activities in the community by seeking private or other public funds and initiatives.
- Disability Access Advisory Committee: The goals of the Disability Access Advisory Committee are to serve as an advisory committee on issues of physical, programmatic, and employment accessibility, and ensure equal access for people with disabilities.
- LSSE Commission: The LSSE Commission – which is Amherst’s version of a recreation department - assists the LSSE Department by advising on recreational facilities and a variety of leisure and recreational programs and supplemental education classes. The Commission develops

- policies, rules and regulations governing the operation of the facilities and the delivery of LSSE programs. The Commission also advises on public playgrounds, parks, and athletic facilities.
- Munson Memorial Building Trustees: The Munson Memorial Building Trustees oversee the general use of the Munson Memorial Library building and act as the community representative for the town with respect to the building. The Trustees plant and tend the garden and take care of the shrubbery.
 - Participatory Budgeting Commission: The Town Charter also calls for the creation of a Participatory Budgeting Commission to propose a measure to adopt participatory budgeting or other similar method of resident participation in the budgeting process in Amherst. Two residents have been appointed by the Town Council and three residents shall be appointed by the Town Manager. There is one opening available. The Commission shall propose a measure to the Town Council by September 1, 2020. The Town is seeking individuals of diverse backgrounds to serve on this commission.
 - Public Art Commission: The Public Art Commission fosters a greater community awareness of the interaction with public art, and through public art, promotes cultural diversity and an improved quality of life for Amherst's residents.
 - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): TAC is advisory committee to the Town Manager and the Select Board on all transportation matters. The TAC seeks address all transportation matters in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The TAC provides advice on current and proposed transportation regulations, policies, initiatives, and improvement projects. The Town Manager seeks residents who have relevant expertise or experience. The Town Manager is especially seeking individuals of diverse backgrounds to serve on all boards, committees, and commissions.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve, [please fill out a Community Activity Form here](#). If you have questions, you can reach out to our Community Participation Officers at getinvolved@amherstma.gov.

This notice fulfills the Town bulletin board requirement Charter Section 9. 12 (e).

The reference cited above is from [the Amherst Home Rule Charter](#).