

From: Nancy Holmes <NHolmes@nantucket-ma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:44 PM
To: Mary Longacre <ml@marylongacre.com>
Subject: RE: Election question

Hi Mary,

Yes, you are right - in order to run for elected office in a town, you must be a registered voter in that town, and over 18 (the voting age). There are no other specific requirements I am aware of, other than following Campaign Finance Laws (I'm talking about local offices, not State elected offices here).

To be appointed, I believe you do have to be a resident for "some" committees, but I would follow up with Erika on that one, as she handles the Committee appointments. I do know you don't have to be a resident of the town for all committees - but I "think" you might have to be a resident for certain appointed committees - again, I would verify me with Erika, please.

Your welcome, Mary - I hope this is a start, anyway!

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Holmes, CMC
Town & County Clerk
Town of Nantucket
16 Broad Street
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-7216/7217

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Longacre <ml@marylongacre.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:53 PM

To: Nancy Holmes <NHolmes@nantucket-ma.gov>

Subject: Election question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Nancy-

Do you have any references for the difference between being appointed to a seat on a local board/commission/committee and being elected to a seat?

I think to be a candidate in a local election, you need to be a registered voter in that jurisdiction, and over 18, correct? Are there any other requirements?

I'm not aware of any age, residency, or other requirements when seeking to be appointed to a seat, is that correct?

Thanks for your help. I've been googling but it's hard to find information specific to Nantucket.

Mary Longacre
202-415-7843 cell

From: Seth Engelbourg <sengelbourg@lnf.org>

Date: November 30, 2023 at 10:25:34 PM EST

To: Leslie Snell <LSnell@nantucket-ma.gov>, Megan Trudel <mtrudel@nantucket-ma.gov>, Nickesha Sheriff <nsheriff@nantucket-ma.gov>

Subject: ConCom and Future NP&EDC Membership

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Hi Leslie,

At tonight's Conservation Commission there was some discussion on the ideas to change membership in the NP&EDC, particularly of the suggestion to remove a seat for a ConCom representative. Although I know a formal proposal has not been drafted, my fellow Conservation Commission members spoke strongly of the importance of retaining the ConCom as a member of the NP&EDC. One justification for this was to prevent any future change in regional planning policies from having an adverse impact on the ConCom's local regulatory wetland protection process. I know that I have advocated for the sector-based appointment model, both in the last meeting and in my written desired membership proposal, yet I was appointed as our ConCom representative, rather than as an At-Large Member. Therefore, it is my civic duty to bring the ConCom's sentiment to the NP&EDC, even if I do not personally agree. The ConCom urges the NP&EDC to retain a future seat for it on the Commission and individual ConCom members are prepared to write letters or offer verbal comments to that effect, if a proposal is advanced that eliminates ConCom representation. Please add this letter to the packet and/or distribute among Commissioners as you see fit.

Thank you,
Seth Engelbourg

From: Mary Bergman <mbergman@nantucketpreservation.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 4:19 PM
To: Mary Longacre <ml@marylongacre.com>
Subject: npedc 11-27

Hi Mary,

I watched with interest the most recent NP&EDC meeting and wanted to reach out. I am very much in favor of the idea of sector-seats (as opposed to 'reserved' for individual organizations). There are issues with adding seats for private non-profit organizations. Who will serve? If it is a staff member of an org, they are then being asked to perform additional duties beyond their scope of work without being compensated. If it is a Board member of an org, how did that person get on the board? Are they a subject matter expert, or just a good donor? Reserving seats for non-profit organizations I think would create another barrier to participation.

Thanks!
Mary

Mary Bergman
Executive Director

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Nantucket, MA 02554
508.228.1387
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Become a [MEMBER](#) and support our work!



Leslie Snell

From: Hillary Hedges Rayport <hrayport@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:20 PM
To: Mary Longacre; Dawn Hill Holdgate; Nat Lowell; David Iverson; John Trudel; Wendy Morton Hudson; Seth Engelbourg; Joseph Topham
Cc: Leslie Snell; Megan Trudel
Subject: composition

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Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to share some thoughts in follow up to the productive meeting yesterday. Of course I can't speak for all the petitioners and people who voted in favor of Article 83 but I do have a sense of what people cared about, having worked for so long on this and spoken with so many people.

I hope these ideas and observations are helpful. I trust no one will initiate a "reply all" – I wanted to get this to you all efficiently in what is a very short timeframe. I don't happen to have email addresses for Burt, Kristie or Barry so I hope Megan or Leslie could forward.

Many thanks.

Best,
Hillary

1.

The Community Preservation Committee is possibly instructive. The state law says it is up to communities to decide if they are to include at-large members, and whether these members are to be elected or appointed. Nantucket chose to have two at-large members elected for three-year terms. See the state statute below and Nantucket statute [here](#).

Section 5. (a) A city or town that accepts sections 3 to 7, inclusive, shall establish by ordinance or by-law a community preservation committee. The committee shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine members. **The ordinance or by-law shall determine the composition of the committee, the length of its term and the method of selecting its members, whether by election or appointment or by a combination thereof.** The committee shall include, but not be limited to, **one member of the conservation commission** established under section 8C of chapter 40 as designated by the commission, **one member of the historical commission** established under section 8D of said chapter 40 as designated by the commission, **one member of the planning board** established under section 81A of chapter 41 as designated by the board, **one member of the board of park commissioners** established under section 2 of chapter 45 as designated by the board **and one member of the housing authority** established under section 3 of chapter 121B as designated by the authority, or persons, as determined by the ordinance or by-law, acting in the capacity of or performing like duties of the commissions, board or authority if they have not been established in the city or town. If there are no persons acting in the capacity of or performing like duties of any such commission, board or authority, the ordinance or by-law shall designate those persons.

Note that some of the "required" groups did not exist when this CPC bylaw was adopted, hence, the substitutions.

2.

The Commissioners discussed ways to appoint a person with Preservation experience. I must press the matter of including the Historical Commission. There are Commissioners who seem to have a problem with the Historical

Commission, and I think this is undeserved and unfortunate. The Historical Commission is appointed by the Select Board to plan for the survey, advocacy for, and long term preservation of the Nantucket National Historic Landmark. They are doing an excellent job. They undergo an extra level of scrutiny because they are part of the Certified Local Government Program, which is a joint partnership with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the U.S. Park Service. This involves an annual audit. Each member must have credentials and must take an oath of office and sign a code of conduct to perform their preservation duties, as part their service on the Historical Commission. They work directly with Holly Backus, the Town's Preservation Planner, and have been building up institutional knowledge about preservation planning on Nantucket for some time now. There is no other Nantucket group who is oriented towards preservation planning in the same way that the Historical Commission is.

Some have proposed "Certified Local Government Commission" as an appointing body but as I've explained to Mary there is no such Commission. It's a term of convenience which refers to the 5 HDC members and 7 NHC members meeting jointly as required once per year under the CLG program. I hope everyone can agree that the HDC is not the correct appointing authority because they are a busy architectural review board – the whole reason we have an NHC and an HDC is so the NHC can do the long-range surveying and planning. In short, it's appropriate and important to look to the NHC for long range preservation planning concerns.

3.

Mode of selection. I think the idea of elected at-large members resonated with Town Meeting and is important to preserve in any article. I think it's important to have more than one elected at-large member. Similarly, people wanted to move away from the Planning Commission appointing its own members because a self-appointing commission is not a best practice. Folks wanted some separation from the Planning Board. They liked the checks and balances of that. I hope you can find another way to fill seats that will strike people as balanced and fair.

4.

Term limits. I know from my conversations that many people felt strongly in favor of the term limit – they thought it was long overdue and a refreshing change. A compromise might be to add language that once a person has reached their term limit, they have to sit out for a year before running / applying again. In this case, I would shorten the term limit to two terms because three terms/9 years was not much of a limit and people complained to me that it was too long.

As a model, I'll point out that the Massachusetts General Law for municipalities adopting [Cultural Councils](#) includes a term limit of 6 years.

"Members of the local and regional cultural council shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years and any such member shall not be appointed to more than two consecutive terms. Members shall have demonstrated scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished service to, the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences."

Term limits are a hallmark of healthy governance and encourage committees and boards to recruit new members and build information systems to prevent the loss of institutional knowledge. It forces succession planning rather than leaving a board exposed when there us a sudden absence. I've personally experience the invigorating positive change that can come even when a treasured board member makes way for new, well cultivated people to step in. Moreover, I've noticed that in a small community like Nantucket, people don't challenge incumbents for fear of causing offense. This is not healthy.

5.

I hope the commission will not become too fractured with different interests, especially short term or narrow interests. If you do decide to poll Commissioners as a way to narrow the field, you might find rank-choice voting is sometimes a good tool. It's a better way to vote. There are online tools such as <https://www.rcv123.org/>