

## **For Rewarding Volunteer Opportunities, Consider Appointment to a Town Committee**

The Bedford Citizen offers this comprehensive list of town government committees with brief job descriptions. For more detailed illustrations of the work these groups do, go pages 3-76 of the 2011 Town Report.

[http://www.bedfordma.gov/index.php/documents/cat\\_view/114-town-government/206-annual-town-report](http://www.bedfordma.gov/index.php/documents/cat_view/114-town-government/206-annual-town-report)

Members of town committees are appointed by the Selectmen, not elected. Residents are encouraged to attend several meetings of the committee(s) they're interested in before filing out an application. To access meeting schedules:

<http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/index.php/calendar/town-meeting-calendar/660>

For additional information, contact the Town Administrator's office at 781-275-1111, or Volunteer Committee Chair Carol Amick at 781-275-5278.

**Affordable Housing Committee:** Implements affordable housing programs for the Town by developing criteria. Determines eligibility.

**Arbor Resources Committee:** Enhances the quality of life in Bedford by protecting and preserving, developing and managing the arbor resources on publicly-owned lands. Encourages preservation and development of resources on private lands.

**Bedford Housing Partnership:** Implements affordable housing programs. Encourages the growth of the supply of affordable housing; develops criteria for eligibility. Assists in the determination of eligible applicants. Investigates methods of land acquisition and affordable housing development.

**Bicycle Advisory Committee:** Encourages use of bicycles by Bedford residents, workers and visitors in order to decrease traffic congestion and air pollution and increase recreational opportunities.

**Cable TV Advisory Committee:** Advises the Selectmen on licensing and operation of cable television in the Town. Monitors the Cable Operators' License. Insures the Cable Operators' compliance with the license requirements. Investigates any unresolved consumer problems/complaints.

**Community Preservation Committee:** Performs duties as outlined in Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, including the study of community preservation needs. Communicates with other municipal boards and committees. Holds public informational hearings. Makes funding recommendations to Town Meeting.

**Conservation Commission:** Protects the environmental resources in the Town through administration and enforcement of relevant State laws and Town bylaws and through management of properties acquired for conservation purposes.

**Council on Aging:** Coordinates and carries out programs designed to meet the needs of the aging and their care providers.

**Cultural Council:** Supports public projects through re-granting of the annual allocation of funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. These projects promote access, education, diversity, and excellence in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Bedford.

**Fair Housing Committee:** Collaborates with Affordable Housing and Housing Partnership committees to assure non-discriminatory practices.

**Historic District Commission:** Reviews applications at public hearings before external changes can be made to properties within the Historic District, including paint color (except white), building additions, demolitions, roofing, landscaping (including removal of trees), paving, skylights, satellite dishes, all signs visible from a public way, and any other modifications.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Oversees the preservation, protection, development, and management of Bedford's historical, archaeological, and cultural assets. May also initiate contracts, accept gifts and contributions of historical and cultural significance subject to Town Meeting approval, and hold public hearings relevant to the furtherance of its mission.

**Housing Partnership:** Implements affordable housing programs and encourages the growth of the supply of affordable housing within the Town of Bedford.

**Land Acquisition Committee:** Carries out land acquisition projects for the preservation of natural resources, open space and future municipal use within the Town, and passive and active recreational opportunities. Researches open lands, contacts and initiates discussion with property owners. Recommends appraisals, acquisitions and other land protection options to the Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission.

**Municipal Affordable Housing Trust:** Works towards the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Bedford for the benefit of low and moderate income householders.

**Petitioners Advisory Committee:** Aids those Town citizens who require assistance in preparing petitioners warrant articles for Annual or Special Town Meetings.

**Recreation Commission:** Promotes and oversees citizen recreation programs. Promotes recreation, identifies facility needs, conducts recreation programs, and manages land and buildings designated for recreation and playground uses.

**Sign Bylaw Review Committee:** Promotes public health, safety and general welfare. Encourages signs which are aesthetically pleasing, harmonious with both the buildings and sites where they are displayed and their larger environs, and which are in keeping with the general atmosphere of the town. Protects public and private investments in buildings and open spaces.

**Transportation Advisory Committee:** Examines, evaluates, and advises the Selectmen regarding board actions and measures that will improve overall resident mobility, expand the use of non-automobile based methods of local and regional transportation, and improve traffic circulation and availability of transportation services that implement the transportation-related recommendations of the Town's Vision Statement and Comprehensive Plan.

**Volunteer Coordinating Committee:** Recruits and identifies qualified candidates for all appointive offices in the Town, except for appointees who work full or part time for remuneration and except for appointments to the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

**Wilson Mill Park Planning Committee:** Protects, fosters and advocates for the historic mill site, surrounding natural habitat and passive recreation opportunities available at Wilson Mill Park for the people of Bedford to enjoy.

**Zoning Board of Appeals :** Acts on petitions from a local citizen or interested party who wishes to seek approval within or relief from the provisions outlined in the Bedford Zoning Bylaws, Sign Bylaws, or perhaps appeal the Zoning Enforcement Officer's interpretation of the regulations presented in the Bedford Zoning and Sign Bylaws. Handles Comprehensive Permit applications, better known as Chapter 40B projects for affordable housing.

**Youth and Family Services Committee:** Advises the Town about programs and services in support of its mission, which is to identify and address the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children, youths, adults, and families in Bedford through programs and services that support and nurture.