

Media Release



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HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Applicants Sought for Bluffton Town Council Appointed Committees

The Town of Bluffton Town Council is seeking qualified applicants for a variety of boards, commissions and committees. These boards, commissions and committees are functionally organized and provide valuable input to Town Council when making decisions or formulating policy.

The most immediate need for new appointees exists on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee, the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee and the Affordable Housing Committee. The Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee currently has three vacancies, and the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee and the Affordable Housing Committee have two vacancies each.

“Bluffton has more people who volunteer on a Town board, commission or committee, than the Town has employees,” Mayor Lisa Sulka said. “We count on our volunteer citizen leaders to take a hard look at important issues and we rely on their input on matters that come before Council. We are grateful for each person’s time, talent and emotional investment in the issues that shape Bluffton.”

Descriptions and requirements for each committee are below.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee:

This committee advises Town Council on the distribution and expenditure of accommodations tax revenue. This revenue is allocated in the form of grants to non-profits who are hosting events or activities which promote local tourism. Grant applications for funding are due by the last day of each quarter.

There are seven (7) committee members. The majority of the committee members are from the hospitality industry, including two from the lodging industry and at least one from a cultural organization.

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Each of the three positions' terms expires in a different year. One hospitality position expires June 30, 2017 with the possibility of a 3-year reappointment. One lodging position expires June 30, 2018 and another lodging position expires June 30, 2019.

May River Watershed Action Plan Committee:

This committee is tasked with advising Town Council by offering recommendations to implement the opportunities and strategies outlined in the May River Watershed Action Plan. The six (6) member Committee is comprised of one (1) member of Town Council and five (5) at-large members who are Beaufort County registered voters; and preferably, Town residents, property or business owners.

These positions have no term limits.

Affordable Housing Committee

This committee is tasked with advising Town Council on the establishment of affordable housing criteria for Town-sponsored affordable housing development projects and initiatives. Committee members also help to define the Town's affordable housing goals, guidelines & policies and funding mechanisms. The seven (7) member committee is comprised of two (2) members of Town Council, one (1) member representing the banking/mortgage industry, one (1) Realtor and three (3) members representing community organizations.

For the two vacancies, one position's term ends in June with the possibility of a 3-year reappointment and the other position's term end in June 2018.

Town Clerk Kim Chapman is the application coordinator for the Town's boards, commissions and committees and encourages applicants to apply for the organization which interests them.

"Whether or not there is a vacancy, please apply for the board, commission or committee that is best suited for your interests and skills," Kim Chapman said. "The Town appreciates all applications, which are kept on file for one year. Applicants will be considered for any vacancies for which they may qualify that occur during the time their application is on file."

Detailed descriptions of each Town Council-appointed Board, Committee and Commission are located on the Town of Bluffton's website (www.townofbluffton.sc.gov). On the home page, click on "Government", click on "Boards and Commissions." To access the application scroll to the bottom, click on "Go to Boards, Commissions & Committees Vacancies", then click on "application form is available here" in the first paragraph of this page's body of text.

Applications should be submitted to the Town Clerk, Kim Chapman, via email to townclerk@townofbluffton.com. For further information, please contact Chapman via email or (office): 843.706.4505.