



Town of Blowing Rock

1036 Main Street ★ Post Office Box 47 ★ Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2015

TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR VARIOUS BOARDS

-- Letters of Interest Due by January 5, 2016 --

BLOWING ROCK, NC – The Town of Blowing Rock is beginning its annual appointment process to help fill vacancies on Town Boards beginning in February of 2016. These Boards each play an important role in preserving and protecting the quality and character of Blowing Rock. A few members of each Board are appointed each year to help ensure continuity and experience are retained from year to year. As a portion of the Board member terms expire, it allows new people to get involved and participate in their Town government.

As 2015 winds down and we prepare for 2016, there are a total of ten (10) vacancies across the five different Town Boards. Information about each Board is included below. All appointees must be residents of the Town of Blowing Rock. Appointees will be notified of their selection in late January and will be confirmed at the Council meeting on February 9, 2016. Terms are three years in length and will begin with meetings that take place in March of 2016.

If you have an interest in serving on one of these important citizen boards, please send a letter of interest along with your contact information including email and the best phone number to reach you along with a list of any pertinent work history or volunteer experience **by Tuesday, January 5, 2016** to Sharon Greene, Town Clerk, PO Box 47, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Your letter of interest and other information may also be emailed to Sharon via the email address clerk@townofblowingrock.com by Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. If you prefer to serve on a particular Board, please indicate that in your letter. If you are flexible and are fine with serving on a variety of Boards, please indicate your prioritized preference for each Board in your letter as well. If there are a large number of requests to serve on any one Board, your prioritized preference will help determine how to balance potential appointees so that all of the available slots can be filled.

Planning Board – 3 Vacancies

The Planning Board conducts studies and makes recommendations to the Town Council on matters related to the growth and development of the Town. The Planning Board reviews all requests for new subdivisions, all requests for zoning changes, requests for new commercial development, and makes recommendations to the Town Council on whether those requests should be approved, modified, or denied. The Town has established standards for new subdivisions and other new development through the adoption of a Land Use Ordinance (often referred to as the Zoning Code). The Planning Board reviews any proposed changes to the Land Use Ordinance and will often suggest such changes to ensure that the regulations in the Land Use Ordinance are current and provide the proper protection for the Town and its residents. There are nine (9) members on the Planning Board and the Board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. There will be 4 vacancies on this Board. Two of the vacancies are for three year term slots, and one is for two years which is the unexpired term of Jim Steele who was elected to the Town Council on November 3, 2015 for the Council term that starts on December 8, 2015.

Board of Adjustment – 2 Vacancies

The Land Use Ordinance establishes regulations for the use and development of land within the community. However, sometimes a property owner, because of special characteristics on his or her property, will request a variance from the specific regulations in the Land Use Ordinance. The Board of Adjustment reviews variance requests and decides whether those requests should be approved. The Board of Adjustment also hears appeals from any person who may disagree with any order, directive, or decision made by the Zoning Administrator. There are five (5) members on the Board of Adjustment, plus three (3) alternate members. The Board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, when cases are pending. There will be 2 vacancies on this Board. Each of the appointments will be for a three year term.

Tourism Development Authority – 2 Vacancies

The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) promotes, solicits, and encourages tourism in the Town of Blowing Rock in accordance with adopted Town plans and policies and administers the appropriation of the room occupancy tax proceeds. This Authority also studies the impact of tourism on the Town and develops strategies to minimize any negative impacts of tourism on the Town.

The Authority membership, per the enabling legislation, shall have at least one-third of its members affiliated with lodging establishments that collect the occupancy tax and at least three-fourths of its members active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Blowing Rock. There are five (5) members of the Tourism Development Authority. The Board meets at 3:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday in April, May, June, July and October. This Board will have 2 vacancies. Each of these appointments will be for a three year term and each appointment must be affiliated with a lodging establishment that collects the occupancy tax.

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission – 2 Vacancies

The Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission (BRAAC) consists of seven (7) members, all of whom are citizens and residents of the Planning and Zoning jurisdiction of the Town. Members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners for a term of three (3) years. Vacancies occurring for reasons other than the expiration of terms shall be filled as they occur for the period of the unexpired term. It is desirable that at least one member be a member of the design profession.

BRACC shall have all of the responsibilities and duties imposed by the enabling ordinance and shall promote and assist in the implementation of general community beautification in accordance with adopted Town plans/policies. This commission also studies the appearance characteristics of the Town and recommends standards and policies of design for the Town. There will be 2 vacancies and each of these appointments will be for a three year term.

Alcohol Beverage Control Board – 1 Vacancy

The Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC) oversees the operation and management of the Town ABC store and employs a local ABC officer to oversee the enforcement of State of North Carolina ABC laws. There are three (3) members on the ABC Board and the Board meets at 3:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. This Board will have 1 vacancy. This appointment will be for a three year term.

Thank you very much for your interest in helping the Town of Blowing Rock continue with its long tradition of citizen involvement with Town Government. If you have any questions about this process or any of the Boards, please contact Town Clerk, Sharon Greene.

PRIMARY CONTACTS:

Sharon Greene, Blowing Rock Town Clerk (828) 295-5200 Email address: clerk@townofblowingrock.com

Scott Fogleman, Blowing Rock Town Manager (828) 295-5200 Email address: manager@townofblowingrock.com