

Pittsford's Volunteer Boards

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the annual dinner at which the Town government recognizes the work of our volunteer boards. As I contemplated the number of people there, I realized that it really tells the story of the importance of their work and what it takes to make a municipal government successful. These are the volunteers, with experience and ideas that range broadly, who devote tremendous time and energy to necessary work of Town government.

Elected officials – the Supervisor, Town Councilors, Town Judges – each have an important role to play. So, of course, do all of the Town's employees. Yet without the work of the members of our volunteer boards, critical functions of Town government would cease.

The Town maintains seven standing volunteer boards. From time to time it creates a special purpose board for a particular project of finite duration. Members of all standing boards are appointed by the Town Board.

The *Assessment Review Board* hears appeals filed by residents challenging the assessment of their property. It consists of five members.

Members of the *Design Review and Historic Preservation Board* exercise authority to approve architectural plans for new buildings, renovations and additions in residentially-zoned districts. They evaluate architecturally significant structures for potential landmark designation and promote the principles and practices of historic preservation.

Our *Environmental Board* advises both the Town Board and the Planning Board on environmental matters generally and also with respect to new building in the Town. Its members monitor compliance with conservation easements protecting designated open spaces, including land comprising Pittsford's Greenprint, whose development rights are owned by the Town.

The *Library Board of Trustees* is chartered by the State of New York and is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Regents. It is responsible for governance of the Pittsford Community Library.

Members of the *Parks and Recreation Board* advise the Town Board and Planning Board on all issues implied by the board's name. It consists of seven members.

The *Planning Board* is constituted by State law. Its seven members have authority over approval of all plans for new residential subdivisions, site plans for businesses and issuance of special use permits.

Pittsford's *Zoning Board of Appeals* also is constituted by State law. It is responsible for ruling on requests for variances from applicable zoning ordinances. It also hears appeals from rulings of Town officials who enforce zoning laws.

Special purpose boards currently consist of the *Comprehensive Plan Update Committee*, the *Community Center Improvement Committee* and the committee for the *Active Transportation Plan*.

Openings on volunteer boards can occur at any time. If you are interested in serving, you can send me a resume and letter describing your area of interest, which we'll review when openings occur. You can contact me at bsmith@townofpittsford.org or by phone at 248-6220.