



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#194-22

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March 14, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to appoint John Sisson of 45 Greenlawn Avenue, Newton 02459 as an Alternate member of the Newton Historical Commission. His term of office shall expire on April 19, 2025 and his appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Mr. Sisson previously served on the Newton Historical Commission as a full member from April 2017 to April 2018 but had to step away for personal reasons.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

RECEIVED
2022 MAR 14 PM 4:32
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

Application Form

Profile

John _____ Sisson _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Email Address

45 Greenlawn Avenue _____
Home Address Suite or Apt

Newton _____ MA _____ 02459 _____
City State Postal Code

What Ward do you live in?

None Selected

Home: _____
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Newton Historical Commission: Appointed

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

Upload a Resume

John Sisson

45 Greenlawn Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

SUMMARY

Accomplished professional seeks to capitalize on years of experience building profitable relationships, managing projects, and working across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Seeking a position that will enable me to accomplish meaningful, community and economic development work every day.

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted expanding Boston-area technology firms and manufacturers in obtaining technical assistance, workforce training grants, and millions of dollars in municipal and state tax incentives.
- Re-launched and managed the 2013 Massachusetts Smart Growth Conference with a range of public, private, and nonprofit shareholders and volunteers.
- Founded community magazine featuring local coverage of arts, culture, and public policy.
- Co-founded community nonprofit to promote the civic and historical importance of village centers.
- Developed sales software training curriculum and delivered training to hundreds of sales representatives in three company divisions across North America.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Town of Dedham, Dedham, MA. July 2015 to present.

Economic Development Director. Working on behalf of Town, I coordinate commercial licensing and permitting projects across regulatory departments, provide technical assistance to businesses, advise elected officials on economic development issues and policy considerations, and collaborate with the building, engineering, and planning departments to develop long-range land use strategies and beneficial modification of the zoning bylaw.

Massachusetts Office of Business Development, Boston, MA. March 2014 to April 2015.

Greater Boston Regional Director. Worked on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to foster job growth and private investment at existing companies and new ventures in 29 cities and towns, including Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Waltham, and five Gateway Cities: Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Revere, and Quincy. Provided technical assistance on tax incentives and tax credit programs. Assisted firms to connect with resources in real estate site selection, financing, permitting, manufacturing, energy and water conservation, and workforce training. Assisted large and small firms, including technology startups and established manufacturers. Worked with State agencies, municipal officials, MassBIO, MassDevelopment, MassEcon, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, and other partners.

Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, Boston, MA. April 2012 to March 2014.

Operations Director. Worked with state, regional, and municipal leaders and planners to promote civic space, equitable economic development, housing options, and multimodal transportation to benefit all Massachusetts residents, companies, and municipalities. Prepared the organization for expansion as a statewide network. Launched new content management system and website. Implemented new customer relationship management (CRM) and email campaign software. Developed processes to track activity and measure outcomes. Oversaw a team of volunteers from state agencies, private firms, academic institutions and other nonprofits to launch the organization's first statewide conference.

Newton Villages, Newton, MA. 2009—2012

Director. Co-founded and directed the work of the community nonprofit modeled on Main Streets principles. Raised awareness about the city's village centers and promoted their civic, cultural, and economic benefits. Worked with merchants and residents to identify issues and opportunities. Organized beautification projects, conducted parking counts, created inventories of retail uses by village, and organized grassroots advocacy to update antiquated parking requirements. Worked as a facilitator of development discussions, promoting community values and the city's master plan. Collaborated with other local groups and encouraged the formation of neighborhood area councils and the mayor's "13 Villages, One Community" campaign.

Garden City Press, Newton, MA. 2011—2012.

Publisher. Founded and launched *Newton Living*, a glossy city magazine with a circulation of 39,000 mailed and bulk distribution, <http://issuu.com/newtonliving>. Advanced an editorial vision that promoted civic engagement, examined issues of development, celebrated local restaurants and merchants, profiled local business leaders, and honored village history. Sold advertising and developed relationships with both small merchants and larger firms. Managed content creation, design, production, and distribution of each issue.

Editorial Development, Newton, MA. 2001—2011

Consultant. Managed product development and market positioning of textbooks, trade books, educational websites and software for multiple clients, including Pearson Education, Houghton Mifflin, and McGraw-Hill. Oversaw content creation teams, deliverables, budgets, and schedules.

MEMBERSHIPS and COMMUNITY WORK

Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development. Watertown, MA. 2012 to 2014
Served on the Marketing and Membership Committee.

City of Newton: Joint Advisory Planning Group. 2012

Chaired the 12-member group of residents appointed by the mayor and city aldermen to deliver recommendations on whether to retain, sell, or lease a former library branch, a historic 1920s building and the surrounding property.

EDUCATION

MFA in creative writing. University of Alabama, 1995.

Graduate teaching instructor. Teaching commendations, 1993 and 1994.

BA in English. DePauw University, 1987.

Editor of the student newspaper. Eugene C. Pulliam Journalism scholarship, 1986.