



**CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA**  
**BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION APPLICATION**

Municipal Clerk's Office, 100 Lincoln Street, Floor 3  
Phone: 907.747.1826 Fax: 907.747.7403 Email: [clerk@cityofsitka.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsitka.org)

**Submit this completed application AND either a letter of interest or resume to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.**

**Board/Commission/Committee Applying For:** Planning Commission

**Name:** Robin Sherman

**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

**Mailing Address:** [REDACTED]

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

**Length of Residence in Sitka:** 10 years

**Registered to vote in Sitka?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Employer Business Name and your position:** Co-owner, Cape Decision Consulting

**Organizations you belong to or participate in:**

Sitka Legacy Foundation Advisory Board

**Explain your main reason for applying:**

I am applying to continue my service on the commission. I am committed to applying our zoning ordinance and subdivision regs impartially, as well as working to expand our supply of housing affordable to year-round residents and supporting sustainable economic growth and opportunity.

**What experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?**

2+ yrs of service on planning commission. 4 yrs of work for STA. 7 yrs of experience as municipal planner in a community of a similar size. Graduate degrees in policy and public administration.

**Appointments are typically made during Assembly meeting open sessions. However, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session.** In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment must be disclosed.** These may include, but are not limited to, a substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment, or an immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment. **Do you have any potential conflicts of interest to disclose?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**If yes, please explain:** My household has a financial interest of more than \$1,000/year in Allen Marine and related companies. I do not believe this interest is relevant to my appointment but it is relevant to my service.

*I understand this is a volunteer position appointed by the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly and requires regular meeting attendance. I further understand this application is public information and the merits of my appointment may be discussed at a public forum. In addition, my name may be published in media outlets. If I am appointed to serve, I will follow all laws, procedures, and practices associated with my appointment.*

*I certify that the information in my application is true and accurate.*

**Date:** 11/4/2025

**Applicant Signature:** [Signature]

## ROBIN SHERMAN

### SUMMARY

- Values-driven leader with record of integrity and excellence in the public and non-profit sectors
- Record of success in executive management, policy research, planning, communications & fundraising
- Creative, pragmatic problem-solver with superior analytical and strategic skills

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Communications Director, Sitka Tribe of Alaska**

**2020 – 2024**

Worked for Tribe in multiple roles. Led rebranding and built communications program.

#### **Executive Director, Justice Not Politics Alaska**

**Jan – Dec 2021**

Interim leadership for Justice Not Politics Alaska and JNPA Civics Education fund, 501(c)4 and 501(c)3 organizations that work on judicial independence in Alaska. Completed 12-month interim contract.

#### **Owner and Principal, Cape Decision Consulting**

**2019 – present**

Interim executive leadership, strategy, research, communications, administrative and other services for government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Co-owner with husband Rob Allen.

#### **Affiliate Program Manager, The Alaska Community Foundation**

**2017 – 2021**

Strategic and administrative support, communications, development and program management for Sitka Legacy Foundation, a local Affiliate of the statewide philanthropic organization.

#### **Consulting writer**

**2016 – 2019**

Research, analysis, writing and editing for nonprofit organizations in Alaska and Massachusetts.

#### **General Manager, Raven Radio Foundation**

**May – Oct 2018**

Interim leadership of public community radio station in Sitka, Alaska for six months.

#### **Executive Director, Franklin County Regional Housing Authority**

**2008 – 2015**

Chief executive officer for two public agencies and a nonprofit affiliate providing affordable housing and community development services in rural western Massachusetts. Responsible for staff of 30.

#### **Research Manager, UMass Donahue Institute**

**2007 – 2008**

Project manager for research on state policy issues for think tank based at University of Massachusetts.

#### **Town Planner, Montague, Massachusetts**

**1999 – 2006**

Supported boards and committees responsible for planning, economic development and conservation.

#### **Farmland Information Specialist, American Farmland Trust**

**1995 – 1999**

Researched and wrote technical publications. Organized conferences and workshops.

#### **Education Programs Coordinator, Union of Concerned Scientists**

**1990 – 1994**

Developed and promoted environmental education programs and managed speakers' bureau of scientists.

## EDUCATION

### **Master of Public Administration, Harvard Kennedy School of Government**

Winner of Taubman Urban Prize for research on the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act.

### **Master of Arts, Urban and Environmental Policy, Tufts University**

### **Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies and English, Oberlin College**

## PUBLICATIONS

*Sitka Tribe of Alaska Annual Report, 2021-2022, 2023, 2024.* Author.

*Sitka Tribal Housing Needs Assessment.* Baranof Island Housing Authority, 2024. Lead Author.

*RAFT in Review, RAFT During the Pandemic.* Policy Reports, MetroHousing Boston, 2020. Author.

*The Massachusetts RAFT Program: Preventing Homelessness, Providing Family Stability.* Policy reports, Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts, 2018, 2019. Author.

*Heat Rises: The Growing Burden of Residential Heating Costs on Massachusetts Households.* Research report, UMass Donahue Institute, 2008. Lead author. Received public service award from Mass Energy Consumers Alliance. Report covered on front page of *Boston Globe*.

*Growing Talent: Meeting the Evolving Needs of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Industry.* Report commissioned by Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, 2008. Lead Author.

*The Massachusetts Community Preservation Act: Who Benefits, Who Pays?* White Paper, Kennedy School of Government, Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston. 2007. Co-author. Received Taubman Urban Prize. Report was the subject of editorial in *Boston Globe*.

*Revisiting Community Preservation.* (Op-ed, *Boston Globe*). July 27, 2007. Co-author.

*Investing in the Future of Agriculture: The Massachusetts Farmland Protection Program and the Permanence Syndrome* (American Farmland Trust, 1998). Lead Author.

*Renewables are Ready: People Creating Renewable Energy Solutions.* (Chelsea Green Press, 1995). Contributing author.

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Sitka Legacy Foundation Advisory Board, 2025

Sitka Planning Commission, 2023 - present

Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts Board of Directors, 2008 – 2015

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2005 – 2006, 2009 – 2015

MHIC New Markets Tax Credits Investment Advisory Committee, 2009 – 2015

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Franklin County, 2005 – 2006; 2009 – 2015

Greenfield Community College Foundation Board of Directors, 2008 – 2014

Montague, Massachusetts Town Meeting Elected Member, 1996 – 2011