



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

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: James Poulson

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residence in Sitka: 55 years

Registered to vote in Sitka? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer Business Name and your position: Daily Sitka Sentinel photographer

Organizations you belong to or participate in:

Sitka Fine Arts Camp board of directors, Sitka parks and recreation committee, Sitka historic preservation commission, Sitka Maritime Heritage Society

Explain your main reason for applying:

I want to offer my experience and knowledge of housing issues and land use policies.

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

I was one of the founding members of Sitka Community Land Trust and stayed on the board until we completed the first affordable houses using the land trust model. As a member of the historic preservation commission I am familiar with review processes.

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:

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: 10-124-25

Applicant Signature: James Poulson

James Poulson

EDUCATION:

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts with majors in English and art history, 1988

BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE

Master in design studies in historic preservation 2019

WORK EXPERIENCE:

PHOTOGRAPHER, Daily Sitka Sentinel, , Verstovia Corporation PROPERTY MANAGER, Sitka Heritage Properties

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Property manager of three National Historic Register-listed buildings. Preservation consultant on National Historic Landmark Sheldon Jackson campus.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee board member 2018-present

Sitka City and Borough Historic Preservation Commission member 2011-present

Founding member of the Friends of Sitka National Historical Park 2015

Board member of Alaska Arts Southeast 2013-present

Board member of Sitka Community Land Trust 2014-2022

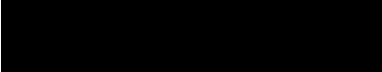
E.W. Merrill Project board treasurer 2014

Community Schools soccer coach 2009-14

Sitka Maritime Heritage Society volunteer 2010-present

Mt. Edgecumbe Preschool board president 2008

James Poulson



Sitka City and Borough
Assembly

Dear Assembly member,

Thank you for considering my application for appointment to the Sitka planning commission.

If appointed I hope to contribute to the commission with my experience as a long-time resident of Sitka, an affordable housing advocate, a property manager and home-owner.

Newly elected Assembly member Katie Riley took time out of her work day recently to talk about the issues and priorities of the current board from which she stepped down.

We talked about how the commission has been working to address the lack of affordable housing, which has been an interest of mine for a while.

I have been involved in affordable housing non-profits in Sitka. I was on the board of The Sitka Housing First organization of the early 2000s where we partnered with Juneau Housing First to facilitate Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's housing grant programs such as the first-time home buyer's program. While we were able to help some Sitkans, the program ran into a wall with the limited stock of available houses that met the program's requirements.

More recently, I helped found the Sitka Community Land Trust, spending many meetings working out the details of an affordable housing program for Sitka. I stayed on the board until the first houses were built and the program's future looked solid.

I'd like to help the work continue by joining the volunteers on the planning commission.

Thank you for your time,
James Poulson