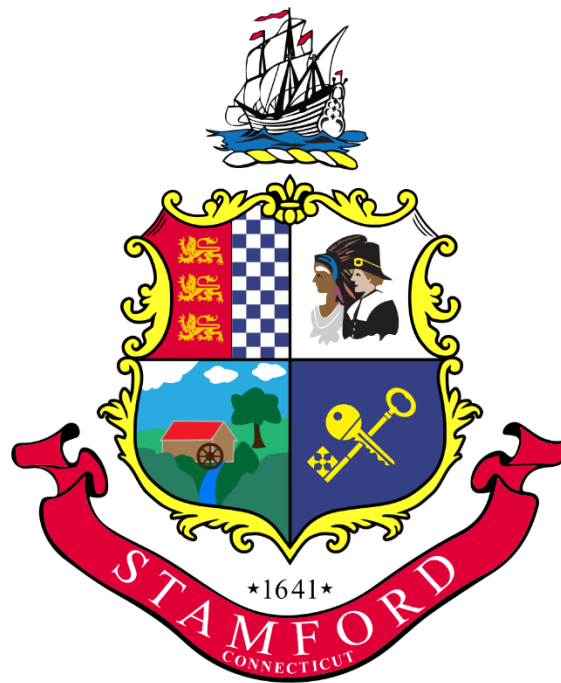


City of Stamford

Boards, Commissions and Authorities



Boards and Commissions

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND BOARD

The Stamford Affordable Housing Trust Fund (SAHTF) was created by the Board of Representatives by Ordinance in November 2020. Its purpose is the preservation of existing and the creation of new affordable rental and home ownership housing in Stamford, pursuant to the City's Master and Affordable Housing plans.

Total Number of Seats: 7

Meetings per Year: 4

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/affordable-housing-trust-fund-board-of-trustees>

ANTI-BLIGHT HEARING COMMITTEE

It is the responsibility of the Blight Hearing Committee to hear appeals from the Notice of Civil Citation of Blight Notices. The Committee determines the appropriateness of blight citations for violations as of the date of the original notice of blight. Committee meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: As needed

Term: 2

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/anti-blight>

APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

The Appointments Commission helps the City recruit and screen unaffiliated voters for Boards and Commissions. They also do outreach to engage citizens to become more involved in the City by volunteering to serve on a Commission or Board.

The Appointments Commission is new as of 2022. The time commitment is currently about one hour per month for a virtual meeting. As they start to engage the community, the commitment may be up to two hours per month if they attend various Resource Fair and community events. Members should be friendly and know a wide network of voters.

Total Number of Seats: 7

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/appointments-commission-955>

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

The City of Stamford has created the Stamford Arts & Culture Commission, which has been charged with stimulating, facilitating, coordinating, and cooperating with Stamford's arts and cultural organizations

(as well as individual artists) for the development of the creative, performing, and visual arts. It shall serve as an information center and focal point in the city for activities in the arts. The Arts & Cultural Commission has facilitated \$125,000 in grants to arts and cultural agencies and produced the Summer Stage concert series in Scalzi Park.

Total Number of Seats: 9

Meetings per Year: 6

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/arts-culture-commission>

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals is an official municipal agency. It is designed to serve as an appeal body for taxpayers who believe that town or city assessors erred in the valuation of their properties or erroneously denied them exemptions. The Board enables taxpayers to be heard by their peers at no expense. No fees are charged for the appeal process. Furthermore, taxpayers do not have to be represented by counsel.

Hearing appeals of property assessments is done on a once-a-year basis for both vehicles and real property. The first two years of a five-year revaluation cycle are the busiest years for the Board of Assessment Appeals members. Members may need to work up to 14 nights in March, (or April if the Assessor is granted an extension for filing of the Grand List). For the three years thereafter, the number of appeals tends to decrease gradually every year, so the members may need to work two to 10 nights during each session. However, the actual time needed is based on the number of appeal applications received, the number of members on the board and the availability of the members).

The ideal candidate is someone who can deal with people, listen, and make judgments based on the evidence presented. This is a subjective process and someone who is analytical would not be a good fit. This is a holistic process. Knowledge of property appraisals and the makeup of the different neighborhoods of Stamford would be a plus but not necessary.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 2-14

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/board-of-assessment-appeals>

BOARD OF ETHICS

The Board of Ethics has the responsibility of investigating any complaints of violation of the Stamford Code of Ethics by an officer or employee of the City government. Officers include elected and appointed officials. In addition, the Board, when requested, issues Advisory Opinions to officers or employees of the City who seek guidance about their contemplated actions which might be considered a violation of the Code. The latter is an educational component of the responsibilities.

There is no average time commitment per month. The Board has a regularly scheduled monthly meeting which may run for between an hour or two. The meeting is not held if there is no business to be conducted in public. Much of the work is confidential, such as investigating complaints, which if dismissed, remain confidential. The Board has 90 days to finish an investigation.

A diversity of occupational/business/public service backgrounds is helpful in doing this work. It is helpful to have both the "legal" and the "layman" approach in deliberations. In addition, it is helpful to have an open mind, to be analytical, to see the nuances between seemingly similar cases, to be thorough in applying the Code, to respect and adhere to the rules of confidentiality, and to have no political agenda.

Total Number of Seats: 9

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 5

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/board-of-ethics>

CAMERA REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Public Safety Camera Review Committee ("CRC") is charged with upholding and enforcing Chapter 7 of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances. The Committee consists of the Mayor or his or her designee, the Director of Public Health & Safety or his or her designee, the President of the Board of Representatives or his or her designee, and two members of the public. The two members of the public shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Representatives.

The Code of Ordinances states that a CCTV Camera or Feed location shall be approved by the CRC by following and applying the Policies and Procedures Manual as established and approved by the Board of Representatives. A link to the Manual can be found on the Committee website.

The CRC meets occasionally as the requests for approvals, and reviews of policies, warrant. In the past 12 months, there were 2 meetings held - the Oct 1, 2021 meeting was held to update the Committee on camera activity generally, and the Oct 15, 2021 meeting was called to hear and approve an application from the Office of Public Safety (agendas and minutes can be found on the website). Typically, the Office of Public Safety is made aware of potential applications in advance, and will schedule meetings only as necessary, during regular working hours at the convenience of the Committee members (they do not have an established meeting calendar and call "special meetings" to hear applications and address Committee business). The previous Chair was the President of the Board of Reps, no meeting has been called since the last election.

Historically, the largest number of applications involved cameras for illegal dumping and the Blue Light Pole emergency cameras.

Applications for approved camera sites can be made (and have been made) by members of the public, elected City representatives, and City of Stamford employees.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 2

Term:

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/camera-review-committee>

CITATION HEARING OFFICERS

A Citation Hearing Officer hears and renders a decision on an appealed City summons for various violations. This position thrives with a background in trial law or arbitration.

Total Number of Seats:

Meetings per Year:

Term:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission is an advisory board that conducts research into the economic conditions and trends in Stamford. The Commission makes recommendations to appropriate officials and agencies in Stamford City government regarding action to improve the economic condition and development of the City. It renders written opinions on the economic impact and advisability of any decision to be made on any matter pending before any board, Commission, agency, department, or member of the executive branch, but only after requested by the decision-maker on that particular matter, the Board of Representatives or the Mayor.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 10

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/economic-development-commission>

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD

The Environmental Protection Board regulates and protects inland wetlands and watercourses throughout the City, exercises the powers of a Municipal Conservation Commission under state statutes, exercises the powers of a municipal flood and erosion control board under state statutes, and holds hearings and reviews applications for building permits that might impact inland wetlands.

The volunteers on the Board:

1. Render decisions on applications to conduct activities such as construction, clearing, grading, etc., in and adjacent to inland wetland and watercourse areas as to their compliance with Stamford's "Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Regulations".
2. Determine what actions are required to correct the impacts of unauthorized activities that have taken place in and adjacent to inland wetlands and watercourses.
3. Review certain subdivisions and site plans and provide referral comments to the other City boards responsible for deciding on these matters.

4. The EPB is supported by a professional staff of four who provide reports with recommendations on matters brought before the Board and facilitate the regular monthly meetings and occasional special meetings.
5. Members are responsible for reviewing materials and participating in as many meetings as they can during the year to ensure there is a quorum for each meeting.

Total Number of Seats: 8

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/environmental-protection-board>

FIRE COMMISSION

The Commission shall have the sole power of appointment and promotion of career members. In addition, the Commission approves the rules and regulations concerning the operation of the Department and the conduct of all members of the Department made by the Chief pursuant to the provisions of Sec. C5-40-3 within a period of thirty (30) days after transmission by the Fire Chief. Other mainly personnel-related duties are also part of the work of the Commission.

In the last major hiring round, hiring entry-level firefighters from an initial pool of almost 1,000 applicants, the Commission interviewed just under 100 finalists for approximately 16 openings. Promotional interviews also occurred for a variety of senior openings in the department. Review and approval of new procedures for providing water at sites without access to fire hydrants were also approved.

If no personnel hiring is occurring in a given month, then the meetings last about an hour to 90 minutes once per month. For large hiring events (for example entry-level firefighters) that can take up to 100 hours once per cycle (12-18 months). Promotional hiring can vary depending on the numbers of positions to be filled but can take 4-10 hours per round. Having a background are people who can make personnel-related decisions looking for the best possible candidates that represent the citizens of Stamford. The ability to be fair and open-minded is essential.

Helping in a small, but important way to serve the Citizens of Stamford by providing the best firefighters to ensure the safety of our citizens is a great responsibility and honor. While the position comes with challenges, giving back to the community of Stamford and the firefighter community is very personally rewarding.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term:

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/fire-commission>

GOLF COMMISSION (E. GAYNOR BRENNAN)

The Golf Commission operates, maintains, and manages the Golf Course at Hubbard Heights, now known as E. Gaynor Brennan.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/golf-commission-e-gaynor-brennan>

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Stamford Harbor Management Commission regulates and monitors shoreline development and reviews and makes recommendations to various land use boards on issues within their area of jurisdiction. They also manage the shellfish pits in the harbor.

The SHMC are the stewards of Stamford Harbor and all bodies of water and its immediate surroundings. This includes safety, access to the public, working in close concert with the Stamford Harbor Police, Harbor Master, DEEP, and City Zoning and Land use department.

Meetings occur about once a month and can last one hour, but typically last two hours. On occasion they can last three hours or longer depending on the complexity of the issues being discussed.

Some basic knowledge of boating or familiarity with Stamford Harbor would be most useful. A strong commitment to be sure that all applications in and adjacent to Stamford's harbors do not interfere or restrict the water dependent use of our harbors.

Total Number of Seats: 7

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/harbor-management-commission>

HEALTH COMMISSION

The Health Commission function is advisory to the Health Director in formulating health policies for the City. They are also able to investigate new policies and avenues of service for the Health Department as well as hear and act on appeals of decisions made by the Health Department.

In the last year, the Commission hired the new Director of Health and initiated new initiatives in mental health. The Commission has also pushed for more school-based health centers in our schools. The chair has the most time commitment to the Commission. The other Commissioners' commitment is a two-hour meeting once a month.

It is helpful to understand how city government works, how the health department operates, and its different departments. As well as how staffing budgets and some public health issues affect the City.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/health-commission>

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY (HPAC)

The role of HPAC is to advise officials, boards, Commissions and departments of the City of Stamford regarding the protection of local cultural resources; recommend properties and sites for the designation of historic districts or landmarks; liaise on behalf of City of Stamford with individuals and organizations concerned with historic preservation; and advise on the design of structures, improvements and cultural resources in the City's historic districts, as well as those adjacent to historic properties. Catalogue the cultural resources in Stamford and educate Stamford residents about historic preservation issues and concerns.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 5

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/historic-preservation-advisory-commission>

PARKING VIOLATIONS HEARING OFFICERS

Parking Violations Officers hear to the appeals of parking violations and either uphold or deny the appeals. Members do not meet as a board but hear the appeals as individual officers. There must be at least two officers.

The Parking Violations Hearing Officer is responsible for reviewing all the pertinent information submitted by the party, either in writing or verbal communication (at the hearing) and uses such information to render a decision based on a combination of facts provided by the officer (the ticket, pictures) and communication with the party regarding the circumstances surrounding the particular incident. The appeal is either granted or denied at this venue.

The hearings are not monthly, and are generally conducted at 6-8 per calendar year, with the exception of filling in for another officer.

Good working knowledge of the policies and procedures governing the parking regulations in the City of Stamford are beneficial for this role, as well as good moral compass, effective communication and reasoning skills, and patience. A knowledge of signage, garages, metered areas, zones and permit parking regulations is also desired.

Total Number of Seats: 2+

Meetings per Year: 6-8

Term: 2

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/parking-violations-hearing-board>

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks & Recreation Commission's objective is to oversee the policies and procedures for the administration and management of parks and programs in the City of Stamford. In addition, they oversee the care and maintenance of parks and advocate for the preservation and expansion of green space and natural resources within the City.

The responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:

- To initiate the planning for future parks and recreational areas and facilities;
- To serve as a sounding board through which the department's administration may test their plans and ideas;
- To serve as a forum for introducing innovative and new ideas, concepts, programs, policies, and procedures;
- To foster the awareness of the social, cultural, economic, environmental, and personal benefits of a comprehensive public recreation program;
- To oversee the policies and procedures for the administration and management of parks and programs;
- And to oversee the care and maintenance of parks and advocate for the preservation and expansion of green space and natural resources within the City pertaining to parks, open space, natural areas, trails, and recreational facilities and programs of the city and to learn all facets of the regulations governing such functions; and interact with a wide variety of citizens participating.

The average time spent a month is 5-8 hours. The busy season is in the late fall and early spring when teams want to be sanctioned or need space and time on the fields.

A background in critical thinking and listening, emotional intelligence, knowledge and interest in the community is needed to be efficient. Being able to utilize lived experience and expertise to create positive experiences.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/parks-and-recreation-commission>

PATRIOTIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS COMMISSION

The Patriotic and Special Events Commission is authorized to arrange for all patriotic and special events for which the City provides funds or otherwise participates, such as observances of patriotic and other holiday celebrations. The Commission shall specifically plan for appropriate observance of Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, and other national holidays and for receptions of distinguished visitors to the City.

The Commission hosts the Stamford Veteran's Day and Memorial Day parade and ceremony. They are hoping to add additional events like a 5K for each weekend and possibly start to assist other organizations with hosting of other Veteran oriented celebrations, remembrances, and events. However, due to the small numbers on the Commission, they have not been able to do this in the past.

A monthly meeting is held, which lasts between 1-2 hours. Outside of this there are commitments that may take up to 10 hours during the month, coordinating with vendors and other City agencies. The busy season is the month before Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The meetings increase to twice a week for those months of about 1-2 hours per. Speaking with vendors, meeting with Police, Engineering, Parks and Rec, as well as Operations, increases quite a bit. Outside of the meetings, the commitment can be up to 40 hours.

The biggest and most committed members or active nonmembers generally either have military experience or have friends or family members who have served in the US military or other paramilitary services like CAP or SEA cadets. Their members are willing to volunteer, ask questions and step up to the plate when they know there is a gap in coverage. With the group they've assembled, this year especially, finding people to present new ideas, ask questions, and step out of their comfort zones has been invaluable.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 26

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/patriotic-special-events>

PERSONNEL COMMISSION

The Personnel Commission represents the public interest in the improvement of personnel administration in the Civil Service and maintains the integrity of the merit system in the administration and hears appeals in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/personnel-commission>

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board is responsible for planning and coordinating the development of the City. The Board has two main tools to plan for the City's future. The Master Plan is a vision, policy and implementation plan that guides the City forward. Based on the analysis of existing conditions and anticipated needs, it is a comprehensive plan that addresses economic development, transportation and mobility sustainability and other issues. The second tool the Planning Board has available is the Capital Budget. The Capital Budget lays out the City's investments in streets, schools, parks and other infrastructure and facilities. The Planning Board drafts the Capital Budget which is then reviewed and approved by the Mayor, the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives. Other responsibilities include maintaining the City's official map, reviewing subdivision applications, and hearing and making recommendations on most zoning board and zoning board of appeals applications.

Total Number of Seats: 5, 3 alternate

Meetings per Year: 24

Term: 4

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/planning-board>

POLICE COMMISSION

The Police Commission Holds the power of appointment and promotion of police officers after consideration of recommendations made by the Chief of Police; hears and determines appeals of disciplinary actions of police officers; and approves rules and regulations concerning operation of the Police Department; conducts hearings and investigations relating to the general welfare of the Department.

The biggest items before the Commission are Entry Level interviews and promotional interviews. Occasionally, the Commission receives an appeal or complaint that needs to be heard and resolved.

Time commitment varies. If the Commission is conducting interviews, the monthly and/or special meeting can take up to five hours per meeting. If it is a regular meeting and there are no complaints from any public attendants, it can last 1-1.5 hours.

The Mayor of Stamford selects the Commission members right after they are sworn in. The Commission is usually for the duration of their term. Each new Mayor will pick the Police Commissioners of their choice. Our Chair Commissioner is an attorney, we have the CEO of a Digital Data Brokerage Firm, a retired School Administrator, a State Supervisor of Family Services and a System Engineer.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: Coincides with Mayor

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-Commissions/police-Commission>

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The functions of the School Building Committee are set forth in Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and State Board of Education Regulations (SBER). CGS 10-291 requires that plans for all state funded school building projects must be approved by the building committee of such town. SBER section 10-287c-21 requires that the school building committee approve final plans and cost estimates for school projects and the sites of such projects.

The Committee review and approval is required whenever there are State School Construction Grant funds. Not so vital or as often, there are Preliminary Design submissions and, always, there are Construction Documents that are required to have SBC approval and BOE approval before they are advertised for Bid. Larger projects, like new buildings or additions also go to OSCG&R.

Projects vary from Roof or Window Replacements to New School Buildings or Additions. There are no scheduled meetings per month. The biggest commitment is providing history and back-up documents to Mayor's Office and others. Since most school projects are summer or winter break construction, the committee is hastily convened in Spring and Fall, just prior to bidding approval.

Total Number of Seats:

Meetings per Year: Variable

Term:

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/school-building-committee>

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

The Social Service Commission deals with social welfare concerns facing the residents of Stamford including, but not limited to programs which address shelter, sustenance, and health needs. It promotes coordination between those city departments concerned with social welfare, including the Board of Education, and nonprofit organizations. It also holds hearings on fair rent complaints.

Additionally, the Commissioners shall endeavor:

- To present and discuss policies and programs affecting social welfare concerns facing the residents of Stamford
- To support and promote programs of the Social Service Department
- To consult and collaborate with non-profit organizations in the City of Stamford to create programs which met social service needs in the community
- To encourage citizen participation.

In the past 12 months the Commission focused on our function as the City's Fair Rent Commission. All members of the Commission were trained by the Stamford Legal Department in Fair Rent law, and roles and responsibilities as Fair Rent Commissioners.

When a complaint is filed the Commission may add a special meeting to the monthly schedule. Meetings are held monthly and generally last 1-1.5 hours. At times there are materials to review for the meeting, or Commissioners take on special assignments on behalf of the Commission. The Chair and Secretary spend additional time preparing agenda and minutes for each meeting.

The most important characteristics of Commissioners are the ability to read and comprehend materials presented, weigh data and evidence fairly and impartially, and discuss and articulate opinions based on data. An interest in the social welfare concerns of Stamford residents is critical. A knowledge of how various City departments, Board of Education and not-for-profits contribute to Stamford residents' social welfare is helpful.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/social-services-commission>

STAMFORD GOLF AUTHORITY (STERLING FARMS)

The Stamford Golf Authority is a nine-member Board set up by the City of Stamford to operate the Sterling Farms Golf Facility located on Newfield Avenue in Stamford. Sterling Farms has an 18-hole Municipal Golf Course, 44 Bay Golf Driving Range, six tennis courts, two restaurants and hosts live theater productions at the Curtain Call Theater. The facility is open, 12 months, weather permitting.

Total Number of Seats: 9

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/stamford-golf-authority>

TRANSIT DISTRICT

The Stamford Transit District manages and maintains the bus shelters throughout the City and distributes income from the advertising to various public benefit organizations. Time commitment consists of usually two hours per month. There is no busy season. A mechanical or building background may be helpful.

Total Number of Seats:

Meetings per Year: 12

Term:

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/stamford-transit-district>

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The URC is authorized to prepare and/or approve plans for urban redevelopment and urban renewal projects, as well as certain other projects. Those plans must be approved by several City Boards, and ultimately by the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives in order to become effective. The URC is designated as the Development Agency for the City of Stamford.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 5

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/urban-redevelopment-commission>

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The WPCA manages and maintains the City water treatment plant. It sets rates for water usage and bills and collects payments from property owners. The WPCA Board of Directors includes the City of Stamford Director of Administration, the City of Stamford Director of Operations, Chairman of the City of Stamford Board of Finance (or his/her designee from the Board of Finance), the President of the City of Stamford Board of Representatives (or his/her designee from the Board of Representatives), and five at-large members appointed by the mayor and approved by the Board of Representatives. At least one of the at-large members must be an accountant or financial manager and at least one must be an engineer. City officials who become members of the WPCA Board of Directors shall retain this responsibility throughout their tenures in their non-WPCA positions as City officials. At-large members shall be appointed for three years.

Of the nine members, five are appointed by the Mayor, the other four are from the Mayor's Office, Head of Operations, Board of Finance and Board of Reps. Of the five appointees, one should be an engineer and one should be an accountant. There are four meetings a month.

Total Number of Seats: 9

Meetings per Year: 48

Term: 3

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/water-pollution-control-authority>

ZONING BOARD

The Zoning Board plays a critical role in shaping the City. It regulates the height, bulk and uses of property based on Stamford's Zoning Regulations. The Zoning Board reviews applications for changes to the Zoning Map, Zoning Text, Special Exceptions, Site and Architectural Plans and Coastal Site Plans. The Board conducts public hearings and administrative review of applications based on rules defined in the City Charter.

The powers of the Zoning Board are defined in Section C6-40-1 of the Charter which states "The Zoning Board is authorized to regulate the height, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures; the percentage of the area of the lot that may be occupied; the size of yards, courts and other open spaces; the density of population and the location and use of buildings, structures and land or trade, industry, residence or other purposes; and the height, size, location and character of advertising signs and billboards..."

The Zoning Board does that by amending the Zoning Regulations if necessary, by changing the Zoning Map (rezoning of land), and by granting Special Permits and other approvals, pursuant to the Zoning

Regulations. The Zoning Board CANNOT issue variances and all changes to the Zoning Regulations and the Map have to be in conformance with the City's Master Plan.

Zoning Clean-Ups (updating Zoning regulations), changes of the Zoning Map in the South End to allow for development near the train station, changing zoning regulations to permit the building of multi-family buildings in certain office parks, and opt out of the State statute which imposed requirements on Connecticut towns and cities for accessory dwelling units and parking.

The Board meets on average twice monthly on Monday evenings for on average three hours, except August when the board does not meet. There is no distinct busy season. Board members receive a package containing the applications and supporting materials a few days prior to the meeting and review the material before the meeting. This review takes 2-3 hours. Occasionally, there are Special meetings and/or field visits to a project site.

Common sense, critical and independent thinking, ability to clearly communicate, ability to stay calm under pressure are required. Useful skills are background in Law, architecture, planning, development, real estate and the ability to read plans. However, members come to the Zoning Board with a wide range of background from very little to significant.

The role provides a chance to think about whether a project is good for Stamford and to stop it if it is not. As part of that analysis the Board weighs the benefits to the City versus any detriments to the citizens. Based on this weighing of costs and benefits, the Board can request the applicant to alter the project to lessen those detriments or to increase benefits.

Because new zoning regulations have come out of the Zoning Board, the Board is able to shape policy in Stamford. Examples are regulations requiring more sidewalks, EV charging stations, more publicly accessible open space at projects and the creation of more affordable housing units.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 22

Term:

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/zoning-board>

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals considers variances of the zoning regulations where there is an unusual hardship. It also hears applications for special exceptions and hears appeals from the City zoning enforcement officer.

The Board considers variances of the zoning regulations where there is an unusual hardship with the land, motor vehicle certificates of approval for dealer and repairer licenses and retail gasoline station permits, and special exception applications.

The most controversial items before the board are usually variance applications that affect the larger community. Other applications like motor vehicle certificates and special exception applications can be controversial as well if the neighborhood concerns are not addressed.

The Commission holds one meeting a month which usually lasts about 2-3 hours.

Members need to be willing to put in the time to understand the applications, ask questions of the applicant, listen to the issues of neighbors and community members, and deliberate with the other members of the Board as to the merits of the application.

Total Number of Seats: 5

Meetings per Year: 12

Term:

Website: <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/zoning-board-of-appeals>

ZONING CITATION OFFICER

Total Number of Seats:

Meetings per Year: 12

Term: 4 years

Website: