

Appointment Committee Minutes
January 13, 2026
Submitted by Committee Clerk Jadczak

Members present: Councilor Smith, Councilor Jadczak, Councilor Markee

Members of the public present: Karl Prah, Councilor Denham

1. The meeting was called to order by Councilor Smith at 5:04 PM. The committee took a minute to welcome Council President Denham and Councilor Markee, who is new to the role and the committee.

2. Approval of the meeting minutes:

The Committee does not have meeting minutes for December 2025; Councilor Jadczak will follow up with the Clerk's office to confirm that they have December meeting minutes from former Councilor Riley and will prepare any minutes for our next meeting.

3. Public Speak Time:

None.

4. Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments:

Karl Prah, Housing Authority, 12/31/2031

The Committee had a discussion with Karl Prah. He was made aware of the open position by Councilor Peake. There seems to be a new chapter in store for the EHA and Mr. Prah is excited to be able to serve in this capacity. He's spoken to several current residents of the Housing Authority. Mr. Prah runs a small business in town. He discussed some of his ideas and understanding related to policy. One area of need is new housing units, and to make sure that the existing units are kept to a standard that acknowledges the dignity that the residents deserve. Councilor Markee noted that Mr. Prah ran for City Council and was happy to see that he was looking to stay engaged.

Councilor Jadczak motioned to move Mr. Prah forward, Councilor Markee seconded. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

The Committee had three other appointments before them (Marlene Michonski, Michele Subocz, and Mary Church). Councilor Smith said that she did not receive the applications for Marlene and Michele. Councilors confirmed that the only application we did not receive was Marlene Michonski's.

Michele Subocz, Parks and Recreation Commission, 12/31/2026

After a brief discussion regarding Michele Subocz's candidacy, Councilor Smith motioned to move Michele Subocz's appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term expiration date of 12/31/2026 forward to full city council, and will call her to inform her that we will be moving her to council. If she requests an extension, we will wait. Councilor Markee seconded, Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Mary Church, Housing Authority (move to EHA resident appt.), 12/31/2031

After a brief discussion regarding Mary Church's candidacy, Councilor Markee moved to move her appointment forward, Councilor Jadczak seconded. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

The Committee will consider Marlene Michonski's appointment candidacy at the next meeting.

5. Continuing Business:

- a. Ongoing agenda item request for board/committee vacancy review/recruitment
 - i. The Committee discussed the need to have an updated understanding of the current vacancies as well as a complete list of current active committees.
 - ii. The Committee will review the committees listed on Easthampton's website, and compare to the draft handbook to ensure completeness. Once that process has been completed, we will create a template of what information needs to be collected for each committee, and share with all committee chairs.
 - iii. Councilors discussed whether or not committee chairs should use (get) an Easthampton government email address.
 - iv. Councilors discussed the idea of the recruitment fair. The ideal cadence was identified as such: get the complete list of committees updated, communicate with committee chairs, update chair emails, and then schedule/plan the fair.
 - v. Committee discussed getting a renewed sense of what the process for new mayoral appointments looks like now that we have a new mayor. Chair Smith said that she will reach out to Mayor Derby to confirm.
- b. Proposal for mayor and clerk to create an appointment committee handbook
 - i. Councilor Jadczak will share the draft handbook with Councilor Markee.

6. Next meeting: Tuesday Jan 27th 5 PM

7. Councilor Markee made a motion to adjourn, Councilor Jadczak seconded. Vote: 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.