

Town of Coventry

Boards and Commissions: Member Role Descriptions

as of November 2022

Coventry Board of Canvassers:

The primary goal for the Board of Canvassers and its Members is to operate in accordance with Title 17 of the Rhode Island General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Coventry.

The mission of the Board of Canvassers is to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in the electoral process and for the voters of the Town of Coventry. The Board of Canvassers works in conjunction with the Rhode Island State Board of Elections and the Secretary of State's office, to provide the highest level of integrity in all elections.

Conservation Commission:

The Town Council appointed Conservation Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Town Council and the Town Manager, and its purpose is to promote and develop the natural resources, to protect the watershed resources, and to preserve natural aesthetic areas within the Town.

Coventry Housing Authority:

The Board of Commissioners are entrusted with the authority to establish policy for the governance of the Authority in accordance with HUD regulations on the development and management of federal low-income housing. The Board establishes the parameters and guidelines for Board members, Committees, Management and staff.

Historic Preservation Commission:

The Town Council appointed Historic District Commission is dedicated to the preservation of structures of historic and architectural value and historic cemeteries. The Commission shall endeavor to safeguard the heritage of the Town by preserving historic districts which reflect the character, culture, social, economic, political and architectural history of the community.

Land Trust:

The Town Council appointed Land Trust's purpose is to preserve open space, protect wetlands, water bodies, ground and surface water resources, farm lands, historical or cultural places of interest, scenic views, unusual, exceptional or exemplary natural habitats, provide opportunities for research and education on natural resources on Trust-held properties and to secure for the Town the goals and objectives as established in the Comprehensive Plan.

Library Board of Trustees:

The Library Board of Trustees is a group of citizens responsible for the governing of a public library. Board members are the vital link between the library and its community. Trustees serve as library advocates and leaders in developing responsible and creative service to all members of the public. The Board sets policy, develops the library budget, administers funds and appoints the Library Director. Library trustees play an important role, as they freely contribute their time and energy to a board because they believe in the importance of free and strong public libraries in their communities.

Planning Commission:

The Town Council appointed commission responsible for the overall continuing planning process, including but not limited to the Comprehensive Plan, conducting regulatory review for proposed subdivisions, development review plans, comprehensive permits involving affordable housing, recommendations to the Zoning Board, and other tasks enabled under Rhode Island's general laws and assigned by the Town Council.

Tax Board of Assessment Review:

The Board of Assessment Review shall hear and consider the appeal of any property owner concerning the amount of the owner's assessed valuation as determined by the Tax Assessor.

If it shall appear that the valuation of any property has been incorrectly or inequitably assessed, the board shall have authority to order a correction. Such determination shall be certified by the board to the assessor whose duty it shall be to make corrections in the valuation as the board may determine.

Zoning Board:

The Town Council appointed board responsible for the overall review and approval of zoning-related applications – most specifically for special use and variance requests. The Board also serves as the Board of Appeals for any Planning Commission and Administrative Officer decisions.