



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Chair: Dee Durham, Second District

September 16, 2025
2:30 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR MEETING &
LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING
1ST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 N. FRENCH STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19801**

MINUTES

A. Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Durham called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Present: Smiley, Cartier, Caneco, Toole, Johns, Kilpatrick, Carter, George, Hollins, Tackett (via Zoom), Durham

Sheldon joined at 2:43.

Absent: Street

B. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2025

Mr. Smiley motioned to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025.

Mr. Carter seconded.

Minutes were approved.

C. Boards & Commissions Interview

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP GEORGE E. GIBSON, II TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

Sponsor: Mr. Toole

Ms. Durham introduced Bishop Gibson's appointment.

Mr. Toole spoke to Gibson's record and the background of his appointment.

Bishop Gibson gave an account of his experience and community service.

He expressed concern about housing in the minority community and a new form of redlining.

Mr. Hollins commented on Bishop Gibson's title and his own commitment to affordable and inclusionary housing

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF LAURALEE RAPPEYE TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD

Sponsor: Mr. Smiley

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Ms. Rappleye.

Mr. Smiley thanked her for her willingness to serve and noted that she was the first candidate from the 7th district to serve on the Historic Review Board.

Ms. Rappleye spoke to her work in historical preservation.

She noted that her skill set qualifies her for this board and said that community members have a responsibility to

give back in some way.

She spoke to the importance of historical preservation.

Ms. Durham thanked her for her willingness to serve and for her work in this area.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MELISSA T. RUFO TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Ms. Rufo.

Ms. Kilpatrick gave a little background on Hockessin DRAC and the need for it be reconstituted.

She pointed out that some of the nominees were previously on this DRAC and some are new faces.

Ms. Rufo expressed how happy she was to serve on this DRAC and expressed her willingness to advance the goals of the DRAC.

Ms. Kilpatrick thanked her for her time and willingness to serve on this board.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MARILYN P. REED TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Ms. Reed.

Ms. Reed spoke in person about her qualifications and experience while giving some background about her role in getting the Wawa in Hockessin to jibe with the historical character of the area.

She noted she would love to serve on this committee and felt that compromise and balance is important in this position

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF R. LYNN PAXSON TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Kilpatrick introduced the nomination of Lynn Paxson.

Ms. Paxson said a few words about her past in Hockessin and her connection to Hockessin.

She wants to preserve its village feel which is a primary motivation for wanting to serve on the DRAC.

Ms. Kilpatrick spoke to the need for growth in the area.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ANNA OGUNNAIKE TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Ms. Ogunnaike

Ms. O spoke to her experience living in Hockessin and her interest in serving on this board.

Ms. Kilpatrick thanked her for her time and willingness to serve.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MARGARET CASTORANI TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Ms. Castorani to the Hockessin DRAC.

Ms. Kilpatrick noted that she is currently traveling and will not be able to speak to council today.

Ms. Kilpatrick noted that Ms. Castorani is very vested in her community and will be a great addition to the DRAC.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF EUGENE RUPINSKI TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Mr. Rupinski.

Mr. Rupinski noted that he grew up in FL and moved to Hockessin later in life.

He commented that he loves the area and wants to give back to the community.

He feels that there is a need to strike a balance between progress and maintaining the small town feel of Hockessin.

Ms. Kilpatrick explained when he would be officially approved at the next Council meeting.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN NAYLOR TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Mr. Naylor.
Mr. Naylor said he's lived in Hockessin for a long time and has owned small businesses there for some time.
He has a home business and wants to see that growth is properly handled.
Ms. Kilpatrick and Ms. Durham thanked him for his interest in serving on the DRAC.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DIONNE DAISEY-WILLIFORD TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOCKESSIN DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Daisey-Williford.
The nominee noted her interest in serving and her background promoting and working in the affordable housing world.
She also said that she speaks the language of developers and is on the board of the Hope Center.
Ms. Kilpatrick explained when her nomination would be official at the next Council meeting.
Mr. Cartier thanked Kilpatrick for the tremendous amount of recruiting she has done to flesh out this DRAC.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KAREN FELIX TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sponsors: Mr. Caneco, Ms. Williams Johns

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Ms. Felix.
Ms. Durham noted that Williams Johns wanted to be a co-prime sponsor.
Counsel to Council spoke to the rules about residency and the requirement that district council members nominate potential appointees.
Ms. Williams Johns continued to address the point about how she is also a councilperson and addressed some of Felix's background experience.
Mr. Carter weighed in on how a typo in the past had Cartier as the nominator instead of him but that the nomination still was approved. Johns again addressed the point that she is also a council member.
Mr. Hollins brought up the issue of candidate residency and how a councilperson of that district should be the sponsor.
A back and forth ensued about who should sponsor nominees to boards and commissions.
Mr. Smiley spoke to how the conversation about co-priming Ms. Felix is overshadowing the greater concern for getting good people to serve.
Ms. Felix addressed council and thanked them for the privilege of serving. She explained her experience in financial management matters and that she has a passion to serve. She noted that she has a small business and helps other businesses. She serves on various other boards and believes in her community.
Ms. Felix pointed out that she looked forward to serving.
Mr. Smiley thanked her for her willingness to serve and gave a bit of history of how the committee was created.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF CONNOR GRAHAM TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD

Sponsor: Mr. Toole

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Connor Munzert (nee' Graham).
Ms. Munzert addressed her experience and current work situation and her passion to contribute to preserving DE.
She said that she is honored to have been considered for this board.
Ms. Durham thanked her willingness to serve.

CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT OTT TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Sponsor: Ms. Durham

Ms. Durham introduced the nomination of Mr. Ott.
Mr. Ott addressed Council in person in Council Chambers.
Mr. Ott spoke to his history, credentials and experience as an engineer and has worked in some of the largest engineering companies in Delaware.
He noted his willingness to help his community.
Mr. Carter added his thanks and appreciation.

D. Boards & Commissions Re-appointments

CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RUTH M. VISVARDIS TO THE NEW
CASTLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Sponsor: Mr. Caneco

Mr. Caneco spoke to Ms. Visvardis' experience and strongly supported her renomination.

CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GERALDINE KROLIN-TAYLOR TO THE
NEW CASTLE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick

Ms. Kilpatrick said that she enthusiastically supports Ms. Krolin-Taylor's reappointment to the NCC Library Advisory Board.

CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN COCHRAN TO THE NEW
CASTLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Sponsor: Ms. Kilpatrick, Ms. Durham

Ms. Kilpatrick noted that she originally nominated Mr. Cochran to the Planning Board but that he had since moved to District 2.

Ms. Durham expressed her appreciation for his willingness to serve and complimented him on his experience.

CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT B. SNOWDEN TO THE NEW
CASTLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Sponsor: Ms. Durham

Ms. Durham said that Mr. Snowden has her support for renomination to the Planning Board.

CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW J. SARVER TO THE NEW
CASTLE COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

Sponsor: Ms. Durham

Ms. Durham noted that efforts are under way to flesh out this board which has a few vacancies.

Ms. Durham thanked Mr. Sarver for his willingness to continue serving on the Open Space Advisory Committee.

E. Other

Discussion of dual appointments to various boards and commissions.

Ms. Durham broached this topic by asking whether two people should serve on two county boards.

Mr. Carter noted that as long as there are no time conflicts or other conflicts of interest, that this shouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Toole said that if they are qualified then that's a good thing, but given that there's now a stipend to be had, it might create a problem.

Mr. Carter said that encouraging participation is too important and that putting a restriction of this sort in place could discourage participation.

Mr. Tackett said that new appointees should be considered first but dual service shouldn't necessarily be a disqualifier.

Mr. Caneco said that he had no objections but that service should be limited to two boards and as long as there are no conflicts.

Ms. Kilpatrick said new nominees should take precedence but if someone is doing a good job on two boards, then there shouldn't be an issue..

Ms. Williams Johns said that qualified people who have applied have not been contacted for positions on various boards.

Ms. Durham noted the various vacancies that currently exist on B/Cs.

F. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

G. Adjournment

Mr. Smiley motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Cartier seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:21 PM.