Town of Black Mountain Advisory Board and Commission Application

Thank you for your interest in being a member of the Town of Black Mountain's Advisory Boards & Commissions. To ensure that your application will receive full consideration, please answer all questions completely. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please note this application is a public record upon submittal per N.C.G.S. Chapter 132.-1. Submitted applications will be kept on file for a period of twelve months.

For more information about each board/commission, visit Town of Black Mountain Advisory Boards & Commissions Webpage

Name

Janice
First

Rausch
Last

Do you live inside the Incorporated Town (City) Limits of Black Mountain?

⊙ Yes ○ No

*if you are unsure, please contact the Town Clerk's office via town.clerk@tobm.org or 828-419-9300. Some boards & commissions require that members must reside within the Black Mountain Town Limits to be eligible.

Physical Address

122 Louisa St
Address Line 1

Address Line 2

BLACK MOUNTAIN
City

North Carolina
State

28711
Zip Code

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

State

Zip Code

Primary Email

janicek.rausch@gmail.com

This is the primary method of communicating with board/commission members and will be how you will receive agendas and meeting notifications.

Primary Phone

(803) 622-2883

Other Phone (if applicable)

Are you seeking reappointment?
○ Yes ⦿ No

Please select the Board or Commission you wish to apply for (or seeking reappointment to).

☐ ABC Board
☑ Active Mobility Commission
☐ Board of Adjustment
☐ Historic Preservation Commission
☐ Planning Board
☐ Recreation Commission
☐ Black Mountain Library Maintenance Board*
☐ MSD (Metropolitan Sewerage District Board)**

For more information about each board/commission, visit Town of Black Mountain Advisory Boards & Commissions Page

**The Black Mountain Library Maintenance Board is a volunteer board established to assist the Town in fulfilling its responsibilities to support & maintain the physical condition of the Library facility and management of both minor/major maintenance for Library.*

***The MSD Board is a non-Town body of which Council Members may appoint a member from its own membership or appoint a Town resident. Currently, the Town of Black Mountain has one (1) seat on this board which does not expire until January 2027. Reference MSD Board of Directors Website.*

If you are seeking a new appointment, you may apply for more than one advisory board or commission. However, an applicant will only be appointed for one board or commission seat, not multiple seats. The Library Board is exempt from this rule.

Primary Preference

Active Mobility Commission

If you selected multiple boards or commissions that you are interested in, please indicate your preferred primary choice in the dropdown menu.

Secondary Preference

If you selected multiple boards or commissions that you are interested in, please indicate your secondary choice in the dropdown menu.

Please list any relevant experience related to the board/commission you are applying for and any prior (or current) civic involvement.

I am a newly retired Occupational Therapist and an enthusiastic hiker, biker, and walker. I am also a retired LTC from the US Army. During my 21 years in the military, I served on numerous boards and committees such as hospital-wide Quality Improvement committees and Joint Commission Care of Patients committees. I have been responsible for writing Standard Operating Procedures and conducting After Action Reviews. I have also served as the chair of the American Occupational Therapy Association's Physical Disability Special Interest Section where I represented more than 15,000 Occupational Therapists for a three year elected position. On the state level, I served as the treasurer of the South Carolina Hand Therapy Association for 5 years. In addition, I have served in multiple leadership capacities within our church including the Board Chairman of our preschool, and was commissioned as a Deacon and also onto the Women's Ministry board. I have been on the board for Young Life and Club Beyond (Young Life for Military Teens) for over 10 years where I stewarded fundraising and development initiatives, recruited for the board, and supported the Executive Director and leadership team. I have also been a leader for a co-ed Medical Explorers group sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America.

Why do you wish to serve (or continue serving) the Town in this capacity as a Board or Commission member?

My husband and I just moved full-time to Black Mountain after owning a vacation home here for the past 5 years. I am newly retired and eager to get involved to meet people, contribute to our community, and to help shape the future of Black Mountain. I want to help facilitate the process of ensuring our community is accessible in ways that are environmentally friendly, safe for those engaging in non-motorized activities, and accessible to both residents and individuals visiting the town of Black Mountain. By doing this, I believe Black Mountain will continue to have a reputation as a welcoming place for bikers, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, as well as those that just want to live in or visit a walkable community, which ultimately facilitates economic growth for the town at large. I am especially interested in ensuring the growth in our greenway system is accessible to all - whether young, old, or those with mobility challenges. I believe my experience as an Occupational Therapist, in which I worked creatively with individuals with disabilities and injuries to identify tools and resources to support them in living their daily lives in meaningful ways, will make me a valuable member of the commission.

Experience, Education, Certifications

I am a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist, with both a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science degrees. I am a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and am a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College.

Please provide any educational, certifications or experience that you could bring to this Board/Commission.

Optional- Please provide any other helpful information you'd like to share about your intentions to serve as a Board/Commission member.

As an Occupational Therapist, I have training and experience in expanding accessibility for individuals through the continuum of ages (from children through geriatrics) and across the ability spectrum. Throughout my 40+ year career, I worked with individuals with wide ranging abilities and disabilities, learning alongside my patients how our cities and built environments, including greenways and parks, can be both places of inclusion and exclusion depending on how and for whom they are designed. Designing outdoor spaces to be accessible for people of many abilities is important work that contributes to a thriving community when its members are able to enjoy the benefits of connection to nature and to community.

I am also a very collaborative person. It was part of my career and it is just a part of who I am. I enjoy being involved with others in my community, contributing as meaningfully as I can, and learning alongside others who bring their own expertise and gifts.

☑ I understand that by submitting this application it becomes a public record per N.C.G.S. Chapter 132-1.

Signature

Date

7/16/2025

Janice Rausch

By providing your signature, you confirm the information provided is correct and you agree to all information contained within this application.

Please read this information below for next steps in the appointment process and general information.

- Applications will be compiled and presented to the Town Council for consideration of appointment at an upcoming meeting. Typically this will occur at the July Council meeting for annual appointments, but if resignations occur, the Council may consider appointments at other times during the year. Submitted applications will remain on file for a period of one (1) year.
- Individuals selected for appointment by the Town Council will assume their position once they are duly sworn in. The Town Clerk will contact you to make arrangements for swearing in upon appointment. If you are being reappointed to another term, you will also need to be sworn in.
- **Some Boards & Commissions require that members must reside within the Black Mountain Town Limits to be eligible to serve.** Exceptions to the above statement may exist for some boards, and for purposes of regional memberships.
- All Town of Black Mountain Advisory Board and Commission members must operate under the following policies set forth by the Town Council and are included in the 'Handbook for Advisory

Board, Commission & Committee Members' last adopted by Town Council on November 4, 2019.
    - ***1) Code of Ethics***
    - ***2) Attendance Policy***
    - ***3) Policies & Procedures for Administering Boards and Commissions.***
- Each appointed member will be provided the current Handbook for Advisory Board, Commission & Committee Members, and must indicate they have received and will abide by said material by signing an acknowledgement form, which will be kept on file by the Town Clerk's office for the duration of their term.
- For any application or appointment questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office via: town.clerk@tobm.org, or 828-419-9310.