

Boards and Commissions

Please find below a brief description of the boards and commissions currently active in the City of Pittsfield. Most boards are governed by either the City Code or by Massachusetts General Laws. Please reach out to the Mayor's Office at (413) 499.9321 if you are in need of additional information.

Affirmative Action Advisory Committee

- The Affirmative Action Committee is an advisory committee responsible for advising affected groups of their rights under the Affirmative Action Plan Policy, disseminating information and educating the people of the City to achieve a greater understanding and practice of affirmative action for all affected groups, and recommending and reviewing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to promulgate the City's Affirmative Action Plan Policy.

Airport Commission

- The Pittsfield Municipal Airport is under the care, custody and management of a seven member Pittsfield Municipal Airport Commission appointed by the Mayor. The Commission exercises all the powers and duties of airport commissions under the General Laws Chapter 90, Section 51E-N. This Commission is empowered by state law and is regulated by the MassDOT Aeronautics Division and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Animal Control Commission

- The Animal Control Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the dog officer. The Commission coordinates to the fullest extent possible the work of all public and private agencies concerned with animal care, protection and control.

Berkshire Athenaeum Trustees

- The purpose of the Trustees of the Berkshire Athenaeum shall be to maintain and operate a public library and to provide library services and library materials to the inhabitants of Pittsfield. The principal role of the Berkshire Athenaeum, continuing the long-standing tradition of American libraries in our democratic society, shall be to ensure the availability of information and materials in support of independent, self-directed learning.

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority

- The mission of Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA) is to develop opportunities that will assist Berkshire County households in securing the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and household stability by: developing and implementing a continuum of services and programs that address the underlying causes of household instability and homelessness; assisting households to develop strategies to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency; collaborating with other human service providers, including grass roots organizations and faith-based organizations, to alleviate the causes and effects of household, housing, and community instability.

Board of Health

- The Board of Health consists of a five-member group that is charged with advising and managing all matters relative to health and sanitation in the City, and to promulgate health regulations in conformity with law.

Board of Registrars

- The Board of Registrars is comprised of 4 members, of which one member must be the City Clerk. The Board shall represent the two leading political parties as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 50 in the Massachusetts General Laws while not allowing more than two members to be representatives of the same party. The Board oversees elections, recounts, voter registration deadlines and other related matters.

Commission on Disabilities

- The Commission on Disabilities consists of a thirteen-member group of volunteers charged with advising and assisting municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities. The Commission also develops, completes and revises as needed the ADA Plan for the City.

Commission on Tourism

- The Commission on Tourism's mission is to encourage and stimulate tourism and to promote and market the City of Pittsfield for the purposes of vacation, visitor, recreation, and convention business. The Commission seeks to find new ways to attract visitors and tourists to the City and to provide services to the City's visitors and tourists. The Commission also collaborates with the Berkshire Visitors Bureau and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

Community Development Board

- The Community Development Board has the powers of a planning board outlined in Chapter 41 of Massachusetts General Laws. Responsibilities include but are not limited to the oversight of the City's Master Plan, Studies and Reports, Public Land and buildings, Public ways, Capital Improvement Program, Zoning and Subdivisions.

Community Preservation Committee

- In November 2016, Pittsfield's voters adopted the Community Preservation Act. The purpose of CPA was to enable a locally supported fund supplemented with a partial match from the state that could be utilized for projects that involve historic preservation, open space, outdoor recreation, and affordable housing. In order to administer the fund, the City must create a local Community Preservation Committee (or "CPC"), which was created in February 2017 under Article LI, Section 2-289 of the City Code.

Conservation Commission

- The Conservation Commission consists of a seven-member group of volunteers charged with adhering to law set forth in M.G.L Chapter 131, § 40 (more commonly known as the "Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act") and its accompanying regulations seen at 310 CMR 10.00. The Commission holds regular meetings to discuss proposed activities within jurisdictional wetland resource areas, and their applicable buffer zones, and makes sound decisions pertaining to each project in a separate and distinct manner.

Council on Aging

- The Pittsfield Council on Aging is an agency dedicated to the interests and needs of seniors 55 years and older. Through many programs and services offered at the Ralph J. Froio Senior Center and other facilities, the Council actively seeks to enrich and maintain quality of life of each senior in our community.

Cultural Council

- The Pittsfield Cultural Council is one of 329 local cultural councils affiliated with the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Its members are community volunteers who have an interest in and support the arts, humanities and/or interpretive sciences. The Council manages the annual Local Cultural Grant selection process.

Cultural Development Board

- The Cultural Development Board consists of a fifteen-member group of volunteers charged with promoting the expansion of the arts in the City by sponsoring cultural events and programs and by working with and supporting local cultural institutions, programs and artists.

Green Commission

- The Green Commission consists of an eleven-member group of volunteers charged with investigating means to increase the overall use efficiency in the City, to decrease the use of energy from nonrenewable sources and to encourage the use of energy from renewable sources.

Historical Commission

- The Historical Commission shall exercise and perform all the powers and duties conferred upon historical commissions by General Laws, [chapter 40, section 8D](#), and in addition shall perform such other duties, not inconsistent with such section, as may be imposed by law or ordinance.

Human Rights Commission

- The Human Rights Commission consists of nine volunteer members who are responsible for implementing the human rights policy of the City of Pittsfield. Some of the Commission's responsibilities include: responding to complaints of human rights violations, cooperating with federal, state, other city agencies and other groups in developing courses and other resources, recommending to the mayor anything it deems will effectuate the City's human rights policies and raising and administering supplemental funds to help achieve equal rights within the City of Pittsfield.

Human Services Advisory Council

- The Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) is an 11 member volunteer committee, which reviews the proposals for human services funding and submits its recommendations to the Mayor. Previous programs assisted with those funds ranged from those that dealt with infants to the elderly and a variety of other human service needs.

Licensing Board

- The Licensing Board serves as a regulatory board for various licenses issued by the City including licensing purveyors of alcoholic beverages. The Board strives to issue licenses that will be an asset to the community and to ensure that all rules and regulations pertaining to licenses are complied with in order to protect the safety and health of the public.

Mobile Home Rent Control Board

- The Mobile Home Rent Control Board consists of five volunteer members that regulate rents, set minimum standards for use or occupancy of mobile home park accommodations and evictions of tenants therefrom.

Park Commission

- The Board of Park Commissioners is comprised of five appointed individuals whose primary objective is to set policy and render decisions on park usage.

Personnel Review Board

- The Personnel Review Board consists of five volunteer members that are charged with making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council as to whether any such city position shall be created or upgraded, including change of duties or added duties, change of education requirements or added education requirements.

Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) Board

- PEDA is a quasi-public agency created by a special act of the Massachusetts State Legislature, for the purpose of being the recipient and redeveloper of approximately 52 acres of General Electric Company's former industrial facility located in the heart of Pittsfield Massachusetts. This development, known today as the William Stanley Business Park, has three of its parcels occupied with ten prime building sites available for new business and industry.

Pittsfield Housing Authority

- The Pittsfield Housing Authority (PHA) is committed to providing a full-range of safe, secure, suitable, and appropriate affordable housing opportunities to extremely low, very-low, and low-income family, elderly, and disabled households in a fair manner.

Pittsfield Retirement Board

- The Pittsfield Retirement Board oversees the Pittsfield Retirement System which is responsible for administering the retirement benefits of its members, who are comprised of the employees of the City of Pittsfield, Pittsfield Housing Authority, and Pittsfield Economic Development Authority.

Public Safety Advisory Committee

- The Public Safety Advisory Committee is established to advise the Mayor, the City Council and city agencies and departments regarding public safety matters, and assist with the adoption and revision of rules and regulations (including city ordinances) related to public safety. The mission of the Committee is to study public safety related policies, practices, and procedures and to provide a forum in which citizens may address matters of public safety.

Resource Recovery Committee

- The Resource Recovery Committee is established to advise the mayor, city council and Commissioner of Public Utilities on all matters such as, but not limited to, solid waste collection, resource recovery, and recycling in the city, in promulgating rules, regulations and rates in conformity with law.

RSVP Advisory Board

- The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Advisory Board meetings are held monthly (except July & August) to review matters pertaining to budget, staffing, program projects and related policies.

School Building Needs Commission

- The School Building Needs Commission assesses the building needs of all the schools within Pittsfield and makes recommendations for school related projects.

Sister Cities Commission

- The Sister Cities Commission has the responsibility to further the economic cooperation and cultural interchange on the basis of mutual friendship and amity between the City and its sister cities.

Taxicab Commission

- The Taxicab Commission regulates the operation of taxicabs in the city and shall annually on December 1 recommend to the City Council and Mayor changes to be made in authorized fees and rates as established by ordinance.

Traffic Commission

- The Traffic Commission is responsible for the development of policies and practices for the regulation and control of traffic in the city. The Commission advises the Commissioner of Public Services and the City Council on matters relating to traffic, parking and accident prevention and shall make such reports and recommendations as it may deem in the public interest.

Zoning Board of Appeals

- The Board of Appeals shall be the Permit Granting Authority as the term is defined and employed under [M.G.L. Chapter 40A](#), as amended, and shall have the power to grant upon appeal or upon petition of a variance from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance with respect to particular land or structure or for a use or activity not otherwise permitted in the district in which the land or structure is located, in accordance with Section 10 of Chapter 40A.