
Profile

Whenever possible, submit your application prior to the scheduled meeting of the affected advisory board so that they can consider all applications prior to making a recommendation to Council.

Public Records Statement

I acknowledge that all information submitted in this application becomes a public record and will be searchable online. The Town is not able to remove information from the public record once it has been posted.

I Agree

jmsbartow@gmail.com

Email Address

James

First Name

A

Middle
Initial

Bartow

Last Name

1002 Willow Dr.

Street Address

Apt. 38

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27514

Postal Code

Home: (919) 360-1374

Primary Phone

Home: (919) 360-1374

Alternate Phone

Residency within the Town limits is required for membership on most Council advisory bodies. Memberships of some committees and task forces may be composed of up to forty percent of non-Town residents.

What district do you live in? *

Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

Greater than 10 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Adjustment: Eligible

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Select a Seat Category for Board of Adjustment *

Chapel Hill Town Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

Board of Adjustment

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

- Advisory Board or Council member
- Other (provide additional information below)

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

I am a former board member & chair of this board

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

Chapel Hill Board Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I have been a Chapel Hill resident most of my life. After graduation from UNC law School and bar passage I applied for and have served on the Orange County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee, the Chapel Hill Board of Adjustment, including two terms as chair, and have served on the Democratic Party State Executive Committee. Additionally, while at UNC law school, I studied state and local government under Judith Wegner. This, in addition to my experiences with town boards and commissions, helped me to realize not just how much of an impact local government has on our day to day lives, but also how much we can have an impact upon our local government here in Chapel Hill.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I currently work as as an Assistant Clerk of Superior court where my duties include being an Assistant Ex Officio Judge of Probate, I also hear foreclosures, possession custody and control of real estate petitions, and show cause matters among other things. As such I have ample judicial experience. Additionally I have served two three year terms on the Chapel Hill Board of Adjustment from 2015-2021 including two one year terms as chair. I am a licensed attorney with experience working with state government and have experience reviewing judicial and quasi judicial cases.

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning or related fields? If yes, please explain.

Yes, as previously stated I served two terms on the board of adjustment. I also worked with the Orange County Deed Recorder's office reviewing plats, deeds and other real estate instruments for recording standards and currently work in in estate matters.

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

The Town Council seeks to attract persons from diverse backgrounds and believes that childcare and transportation is a potential barrier for qualified and interested applicants. See the [Childcare and Transportation Assistance pilot](#) for further details. In order to consider this application and provide some balance to the various boards, this personal information is required:

Ethnicity *

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

Male

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

35-54

Attorney/Assistant Clerk

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

Yes No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

Yes No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

Yes No

Ethics Statement

ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Members of advisory boards and commissions shall not vote on any matter in which they have a conflict of interest or an interest which reasonably might appear to be in conflict with the concept of fairness in dealing with public business. A conflict of interest or a potential conflict occurs if the outcome of the matter being considered is reasonably likely to have a direct, substantial, and readily identifiable financial impact on the member. In addition, members of the Historic District Commission and Board of Adjustment, when these boards are hearing cases, serve as quasi-judicial bodies. Pursuant to General Statute 160D-109(d), members of these boards “shall not participate in or vote on any quasi-judicial matter in a manner that would violate affected persons’ constitutional rights to an impartial decision maker. Impermissible violations of due process include, but are not limited to, a member having a fixed opinion prior to hearing the matter that is not susceptible to change, undisclosed ex parte communications, a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with an affected person, or a financial interest in the outcome of the matter.” Any member who violates these Ethics Guidelines may be subject to removal from the board or commission. If the advisory board or commission member believes he/she has a conflict of interest then that member shall recuse himself/herself from voting on the matter. In cases where the individual member or the advisory board or commission establishes a conflict of interest, then the advisory board or commission member shall remove themselves from the voting area. Any advisory board or commission member may seek the counsel of the Town Attorney on questions regarding the interpretation of these ethics guidelines or other conflict of interest matters. The interpretation may include a recommendation on whether or not the advisory board or commission member should excuse himself/herself from voting. The advisory board or commission member may request the Town Attorney respond in writing.

I Agree *

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I Agree

ahfishkin@gmail.com

Email Address

Allan

First Name

Middle
Initial

Fishkin

Last Name

319 Palafox Drive

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27516

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

Chapel Hill Town limits (Purple)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure](#)

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Greater than 10 years

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Adjustment: Eligible

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Select a Seat Category for Board of Adjustment *

Chapel Hill Town Resident

Question applies to Planning Commission

Select a Seat Category for the Planning Commission *

Chapel Hill Resident

Which Board is your First Choice? *

Board of Adjustment

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Town of Chapel Hill website

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

Little or No Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I admit that other than as a voter, I have no direct experience or interaction with the local government. Having said that, I feel that I'm a stakeholder as a 12-year resident with two children who attend Chapel Hill schools. Currently, my daughter is a college freshman out of state and my son is in the 11th grade. This town is part of a growing dynamic area that I'm glad my family can be a part of. Having said that I'm now starting to think of my life as an empty-nester and future retiree as well as what kind of life my children could have in Chapel Hill as young adults. I believe that bringing the perspective to think about not only of how the future of this town will impact me directly, but of the generation to follow in the form of my children will let me bring value to the issues under the responsibility of any commission I would be allowed to join. Thank you Allan Fishkin

Allan Fishkin

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

For the past 7 years, I was a member of my neighborhood's Homeowners Association, having held roles of vice president, secretary and most recently, treasurer. In these roles, I collaborated with other board members to resolve issues in the interests of the neighborhood and individual homeowners. I believe these skills in building partnerships and recognizing the interests of different stakeholders to identify the best solution to an issue could be leveraged in a commission role. My career background has been marketing and e-commerce roles across various industries, including healthcare and retail. These roles have required me to develop an analytic approach to solving problems and discussion of issues that I feel could be leveraged in a commission role. On a personal note, I'm originally from Long Island and lived in Brooklyn, NY as an adult. Looking back on that time, I find myself thinking about how the issues and projected solutions for Chapel Hill's future could have been applied or at least discussed by the suburban communities on Long Island - if there were opportunities for citizen participation in the form of boards and commissions. It's the opportunity to do so here that draws me to apply for a commission position. Thank you Allan Fishkin

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning or related fields? If yes, please explain.

Over the past year, I have attempted to educate myself on the changes in Chapel Hill's planning and LUMO process as the community seeks to build and define it's path to the future. I've supplemented this with seeking out local media who are close to these issues in order to understand the background and context underlying various stakeholder points of view. As I've learned more, I see the need to take into account the impact on different stakeholders in the community of changes in town policy or process. The opportunity to participate in the interplay between various groups of stakeholders in order to bring a result and favorable outcomes is what motivates me to seek out a commission position.

Question applies to Planning Commission

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning, design field, environment, housing, transportation or related fields? If yes, please explain.

Please see Board of Adjustment response to this question as it covers this question as well.

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Ethnicity *

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

Male

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

over 55

Marketing / Customer
Relationship Marketing

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

Yes No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

Yes No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

Yes No

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I Agree

mcavoybickford@gmail.com

Email Address

Benjamin

First Name

K

Middle
Initial

Mcavoy-bickford

Last Name

139 Hamilton Road

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Chapel Hill

City

NC

State

27517

Postal Code

Home: (984) 215-9658

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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What district do you live in? *

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Greater than 10 years

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Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Adjustment: Eligible

Benjamin K Mcavoy-bickford

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Select a Seat Category for Board of Adjustment *

Chapel Hill Town Resident

Question applies to Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board

Select a Seat Category for the Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board *

UNC Chapel Hill Student

Which Board is your First Choice? *

Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

How do you describe your previous advisory board experience?

Little or No Experience

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I'm a current sophomore at UNC but also grew up in Chapel Hill, meaning that I can see the perspective from both sides of the aisle with regards to town-gown issues. I have a driver's license, but I mostly get around Chapel Hill by bus and bike, giving me significant lived experience with how people use multiple modes of transit.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I have significant experience writing for different roles and purposes, including as a freelance trivia question editor and as a high school and college newspaper columnist. This gives me the ability to communicate clearly to varied audiences and would likely come in handy for town board service. When I was in elementary school, I spent a truly excessive amount of time staring at local maps, so I like to think that I still have a strong understanding of local geography.

Question applies to Board of Adjustment

Do you have special interest, experience, or education/training in city planning or related fields? If yes, please explain.

I sometimes wrote columns concerning city planning and transportation for the ECHO, East Chapel Hill High School's student newspaper. In high school, I wrote about greenways and the idea of a fifteen-minute city; before I transferred to UNC I also wrote a column about maps for my former college newspaper. I wouldn't consider this significant experience or training, but it does reflect an interest in issues related to city planning. I'm also prospectively an economics major.

[Resume- Benjamin_McAvoy-Bickford_6_.pdf](#)

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Ethnicity *

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

Male

If other, please describe:

White

Please select your age from the following list. *

18-24

student

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

Yes No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

Yes No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

Yes No

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Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford

Chapel Hill, North Carolina | bmcavoyb@ad.unc.edu | 984-215-9658

EDUCATION:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | Chapel Hill, NC | May 2026 (Expected)

Candidate for Bachelor of Arts

Major: Linguistics

East Chapel Hill High School | Chapel Hill, NC | June 2022

Cumulative GPA: 4.697/4.000 weighted (4.0/4.0 unweighted) | Class rank: 12/385

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE:

Cashier | The Fresh Market | Chapel Hill, NC | February 2022-August 2022, July 2023-September 2023

- Aided customers in finding specialty items
- Kept cashier lane clean and organized and hastened checking-out process for customers

Writer | National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) | July 2022-

- Wrote trivia questions and used a variety of computer systems to organize them

Quiz Bowl Editor | Freelance | April 2020-September 2023

- Wrote trivia questions and edited them for accuracy, quiz bowl format, and clear wording
- Reviewed the submissions of others on deadlines and incorporated them into the sets as a whole
- Handled all questions in the subjects of religion, world history, current events, and social sciences
- Responded to player feedback to improve the experience of playing trivia

OTHER EXPERIENCE:

Crossword Constructor | The Wall Street Journal | January 25, 2021 | Universal Syndicate | May 5, 2023

- Submitted numerous crosswords to newspapers and published others on a blog

Opinion Photo Editor | The Daily Pennsylvanian | Philadelphia, PA | January 2022-May 2023

- Selected and sometimes took photos to meet columnist specifications for most opinion columns, or summarized the opinion for the design department
- Wrote seven opinion columns to date on topics ranging from ChatGPT to language education

Assistant Instructor | Pinecone Bluegrass Camp | Raleigh & Cary, NC | June 2021 and June 2022

- Taught bluegrass music, particularly the mandolin and guitar, to elementary and middle schoolers
- Assisted instructors with organizational and procedural tasks

Club President | East Chapel Hill Quiz Bowl and History Bowl | Chapel Hill, NC | May 2020-June 2022

- Organized practices and tournaments for two interconnected clubs
- Led the quiz bowl team to 3rd at nationals in 2022 and was a top-8 individual at another nationals in 2021

USA Red Team Member | International Linguistics Olympiad | Isle of Man, UK | April 2022-July 2022

- Organized a school linguistics club that hosted the qualifying exams
- Received a silver medal as an individual and a bronze medal as a team

SKILLS:

Languages: English (native), German (intermediate), Latin (reading), Bahasa Indonesia (beginning)

Technical: Adobe InDesign, Wordpress, Google Suite, Photoshop

