

First Name: Marilyn

Last Name: Castriotta

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City: Northampton

State: MA

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Occupation & Place of Employment: Antioch University New England Center for Climate Preparedness & Community Resilience

Email: mcastriotta1@antioch.edu

Years Lived in Northampton: <1 year

Boards and Committees: Public Shade Tree Commission

Please list "other" board or committee of interest: Conservation Commission

What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?: Dear Mayor Narkewicz

I am delighted to learn about Northampton's newly created Public Shade Tree Commission, and appreciate your consideration of me for this seven-member commission.

In addition to my great passion for the preservation, protection, and promotion of trees – in forested as well as urban settings – I have fifteen years of relevant work experience as an environmental professional, as well as a master's degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Conservation Biology.

A few positions I have held that demonstrate my competency include coordinator of the NOFA/Mass organic land care program, park interpreter as well as a regional interpretive coordinator for DCR, and conservation easement steward at the Harris Center for Conservation Education. I also completed a Tree Steward Training offered by DCR.

My board and committee experience includes serving a three-year term on the governing board of Arlington Street Church (Unitarian Universalist), being selected as a delegate for the Cambridge Climate Emergency Congress (that the Mayor of Cambridge convened by in 2009-2010), and serving as the student representative on the President's Council at Antioch University New England (AUNE).

Volunteer community service is very important to me. It was therefore quite an honor to receive a Keene Elm City Rotary Scholarship for "service above self" while I was in graduate school. Currently, I am a team leader for Wilderness Heals (a three-day pledge hike in the White Mountains to benefit the Elizabeth Stone House, a homeless shelter) and a training mentor for the Climate Reality Leadership Corps.

While a graduate student at AUNE, I was trained/mentored by Tom Wessels (author of Reading the Forested Landscape), and took courses such as Ecological Dynamics of Landscape, New England Flora; and Climate Change Resilience, Adaptation, and Mitigation. One of the scholarships I received during graduate school was the Ginsberg-Wessels Fellowship for "academic excellence and true leadership" (awarded to one student each year by the Environmental Studies faculty).

Some of my graduate work included semester-long projects that resulted in reports to the City of Keene, including “A Climate Resilient Community: Assessing Keene’s Progress in Adapting to Climate Change” (a 55-page report for City of Keene Cities for Climate Protection committee) and “Identifying Existing Community Gardens and the Best Places for New Sites in Keene, NH” (a GIS mapping project and poster created for AUNE’s Sustainable Food Systems course and the Keene Agriculture Commission). My capstone project was “Building Capacity for Watershed Restoration at the Grassroots Level in the Northeastern United States” (which resulted in a 63-page report for Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences).

I feel that developing and demonstrating leadership skills is an important part of our individual and collective response to a world in crisis. Receiving the President’s Distinguished Leadership Award in May, which was awarded to one student during Antioch University New England’s commencement, was deeply meaningful to me. As a new resident to Northampton, I would like to offer my community service and leadership skills to this city.

It would truly be a pleasure to work with you and other Northampton citizens in the service of promoting trees in this beautiful city. I hope that the information on this application helps you get a picture of my passion, skills, commitment, and service-mindedness, which I would gladly apply to this tree commission.

Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?: No

Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.: The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service.

Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.

Signature: Marilyn Castriotta

Date:

Additional Information:

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