



Borough of  
**RUTHERFORD**

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[www.rutherfordboronj.com](http://www.rutherfordboronj.com)

## **2023 Committee, Board & Commission Descriptions**

*Advisory committee meetings are not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) as no formal action takes place and therefore are not required to be open to the public.*

*Boards and Commissions are strictly governed by by-laws and require minutes and agendas. Their regular meetings are open to the public.*

### **Access for All Committee**

Access for All Rutherford is composed of 11 members: five members shall be persons with disabilities, or parents of a child with a disability or a resident family member who is the caregiver of a person with a disability; six members shall be either residents of, or employed in, the borough. The committee is charged with providing opportunities for greater unity across the borough through identifying and addressing barriers within the borough's borders for residents with disabilities.

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### **Arts Committee -**

Focused on advancing the visibility of arts in Rutherford.

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### **Board of Adjustment (Zoning) -**

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is a land use board empowered to hear appeals of enforcement decisions made by the Zoning Officer, decide requests for interpretation of the zoning code, hear appeals for variances to deviate from the strict application of the zoning code and to rule on "use" applications.'

The Board consists of 7-members serving staggered three-year terms and 2-alternate members. Appointees are required to successfully complete the State of New Jersey "Land Use for Board Members" training course and any other trainings required by law.

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## **Board of Health**

Under State Statute and outlined in more detail under Chapter 16 of the Borough Code, the Rutherford Board of Health was created on May 17, 1901 and consists of seven members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Governing Body and serve three year terms. Said Board possesses all of the powers conferred and perform all the duties enjoined upon local Boards of Health in accordance with NJSA 26:3-1, et seq.

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## **Civil Rights Commission**

The mission of the Rutherford Civil Rights Commission is to eliminate discrimination, increase public awareness of civil rights through advocacy and education, provide information and referrals, and offer conflict resolution services and mediation for civil rights matters. The Commission envisions Rutherford as a community that fosters dignity, respect, understanding, and acceptance of all citizens.

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## **County Park Development Committee -**

Bergen County plans to build a new County Park on the site of the abandoned Norfolk Southern railroad tracks on the East Rutherford/Rutherford border. This committee would work in conjunction with counterparts in East Rutherford and Bergen County to determine what features the new County Park would be most desirable for our area.

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## **Data & Science Analysis (NEW) -**

An exploratory committee to determine the feasibility of data collection and analysis that can help inform decisions made within the Borough and promote evidence-based governing. By analyzing large data sets, the committee could alert the governing body to trends and outliers potentially useful for grants and other programs.

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## **Downhill Derby Committee**

The Rutherford Downhill Derby is an annual town event providing kids and adults with the opportunity to design, build and race gravity powered race carts.

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## **Green Team**

The Rutherford Green Team's primary mission is to lead and coordinate the sustainability activities of the community. Specifically, we advise the Borough Council and develop initiatives and projects that contribute to the long range sustainable development of the Borough of Rutherford and beyond.

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## **Historic Tribute Committee**

To identify, preserve and celebrate the legacies and accomplishments of individuals, as well as the cultural contributions of communities, that have helped shape Rutherford as we know it today.

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## **Historic Properties Committee**

To identify and bring awareness to buildings of historical and architectural significance in Rutherford. Maintain initiatives such as walking tours with a focus on educating the public to give them a better appreciation of Rutherford's surroundings.

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## **Library Board**

The library board of trustees, in conjunction with the director, determines the mission of the library, sets the policy that governs the library, and oversees the general management of the library. Specifically, members:

1. Advocate for adequate funding for services the community wants and needs
2. Hire and evaluate the director
3. Oversee capital projects, such as facility construction and renovation
4. Review and approve policy
5. Review and approve the annual budget

Members attend monthly meetings of the Board, along with any sub-committee meetings.

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## **Local Assistance Board**

The Local Assistance Board was established by the Mayor and Council in pursuant to the General Public Assistance Law, N.J.S.A. 44:8-107 et seq. The Board is appointed by the Mayor with advice and consent of the Council. Members of the Board serve without compensation. The term of any member shall be for two years; with terms expiring in alternate years. The Director of Welfare, who is the administrative officer of the Board, shall hold office for a term of five years, and shall be paid such salary as approved by the Mayor and Council. The duties of the Director of Welfare are set forth in N.J.S.A. 44:8-118 et seq.

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## **Municipal Alliance Committee**

The Rutherford Municipal Alliance is comprised of parents, students, teachers, law enforcement, religious leaders, and other community stakeholders to focus on efforts to help the children of Rutherford understand the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Municipal Alliances are local planning and coordinating bodies established in all 21 counties to assess needs, set priorities, develop plans and implement programs that form the foundation of New Jersey's substance abuse prevention activities. New Jersey's Municipal Alliances provide over 3,800 prevention programs statewide.

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## **Planning Board**

The Planning Board is a land use board tasked with the review of applications for development for site plans and subdivisions and may grant use or bulk variances as a condition for approval. The Board makes recommendations to the Borough Council, the Planning Board may conduct redevelopment studies, draft redevelopment plans and review plans prepared by the others for consistency with the Master Plan.

Established pursuant to P.L 1975, C. 291 and Borough Code Chapter 51 and consists of nine members, in four classes serving staggered, three-year terms (except alternates).

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Appointees are required to successfully complete the State of New Jersey mandated "Land Use for Board Members" training course and any other trainings required by law.

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## **Rent Board -**

The Rent Board's primary function is to conduct hearings and mediation of tenant and landlord petitions regarding the adjustment of rents under the Borough's rent control laws. This board is being reestablished as its function is currently under the purview of the Mayor and Council.

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## **Shade Tree Commission**

The Borough of Rutherford Shade Tree Commission promotes the conservation and stewardship of trees throughout the Borough by advising and working with Borough officials, the Department of Public Works and Shade Tree Division regarding the planting, care and maintenance of public property trees. It is our heritage, responsibility and commitment for a long term investment in the beauty, health and character of our tree canopy throughout Rutherford.

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### **Stigma Free Committee**

To help make people who live with mental illness feel less isolated.

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### **Streetscape Committee/Economic Development**

A committee devoted to the aesthetic preservation and economic development of Rutherford businesses.

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### **Volunteer Committee**

Highlights of the committee's work since its inception include: Sponsoring Club Fairs to encourage residents to become involved and make positive contributions to our Borough. Sponsoring the Summer Reading in Lincoln Park program, in partnership with the Rutherford Public Library and Rutherford Recreation staff. Initiating an Outstanding Citizen Award program. Hosting an educational forum for Rutherford residents featuring members of Courage to Connect NJ. In February 2016, the Community/Quality of Life Committee welcomed new members of the former Board of Aesthetic Review