

Donna Hosch

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Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 8:56 AM
To: Lance Olive; Donna Hosch; Stacie Galloway
Subject: Advisory Board Interest Form - Suzanne Mason

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Town of Apex

Advisory Board Interest Form

Entry Details

I'M INTERESTED IN SERVING ON...	Environmental Advisory Board
HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE?	Town Website Facebook
LEGAL NAME	Suzanne Mason
ADDRESS	329 Old Mill Village Drive, Apex, North Carolina 27502
DO YOU LIVE WITHIN THE APEX TOWN LIMITS?	Yes
EMAIL	suzanne.c.mason@gmail.com
MOBILE PHONE	(919) 306-9757
CURRENT EMPLOYER	North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
CURRENT JOB TITLE	Conservation Data Manager/NCDOT Project Specialist

TELL US WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE?

The reason I would like to serve is because I am passionate about our town's natural resources and our green infrastructure (the forests, the open spaces, the riparian corridors, etc.). I have been a resident of Apex since 2005 and have seen the development that has occurred in the past almost decade and a half. Despite an incredible amount of planning and thought around the other types of infrastructure associated with these development projects, much less attention has been paid to our green infrastructure in that process. Conserving green infrastructure does not require a choice between development and no development but rather thoughtful planning and policies and ordinances that balance preservation of our forests, wetlands, fields, streams, and wildlife with continued growth. I would love the opportunity to share my passions with the Environmental Committee and work towards helping our town literally stay green.

PLEASE LIST ANY EDUCATION, SPECIAL SKILLS, OR EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE THAT WOULD BE USEFUL WHILE CONSIDERING THIS FORM.

I am a botanist by training and for the past 14 years I have worked for the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, which is a non-regulatory state program responsible for identifying and collecting information about the places that are most important for preserving North Carolina's biodiversity and then helping to facilitate protection of them. As a result, I have had the opportunity to visit some of the state's most amazing natural heritage areas, perform field surveys for many rare species, and work collaboratively with state and federal agencies also engaged in natural resource conservation such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the N.C. Plant Conservation Program, and the N.C. Botanical Garden. I also regularly review N.C. Department of Transportation projects for conflicts with natural heritage resources. Finally, over the last five years I've trained over 400 environmental professionals, government staff, and private landowners on how to interpret natural heritage data and how to access it via the Natural Heritage Data Explorer. Most recently I have been giving these trainings as part of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Green Growth Toolbox workshops.

I have a Master of Science degree in Biology from UNC-Charlotte and for my thesis research I investigated the genetic characteristics of a rare sunflower that is only found in the central part of North Carolina and north-central South Carolina. Because this sunflower is a federally endangered

species, I also focused on how its genetic diversity relates to the policies used in conservation efforts for this species. During graduate school I also helped my now husband capture and track Barred Owls in and around Charlotte, N.C. and evaluated the quality and type of habitats they were using for nesting and foraging for food. I am also a graduate of the Town of Apex's inaugural Peak Academy 2018 class.

Thank-you for your time and consideration!

IF YOU NOW SERVE, OR HAVE PREVIOUSLY SERVED ON ANY TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS OR COMMITTEES, PLEASE LIST THE COMMITTEES AND DATES SERVED.

None.