



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

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Personal Information

*** Full name**

Mr Daniel Widis

*** Home address**

303 Knight St.
Hillsborough NC 27278

*** Primary phone**

704-526-5107

Secondary phone

SKIPPED

*** Email**

dwidis@gmail.com

Employer

UNC-Chapel Hill

Job title

University Landscape Architect

*** Birth date**

February 17, 1987

*** Gender**

Male

*** Preferred pronouns**

He/him/his

*** Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ancestry**

No

*** Race**

White

*** Have you attended Government 101 for community members?**

No

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Board Selection

You must meet at least one of the eligibility criteria for each board you would be willing to serve on:

Board of Adjustment

- Live in town
- Live in the extraterritorial jurisdiction area

Historic District Commission

- Live in town
- Live in the extraterritorial jurisdiction area

Parks and Recreation Board

- Live in town

Planning Board

- Live in town
- Live in the extraterritorial jurisdiction area

Tourism Board

- Own or operate a restaurant in town
- Live, own property or be employed in town

Tourism Development Authority

- Be affiliated with a business collecting lodging tax

Tree Board
- Live in town

Water and Sewer Advisory Committee
- Be a water system customer

*** First choice board**

Planning Board

Second choice board

Historic District Commission

Third choice board

Tree Board

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Short-Answer Questions

*** Have you served or are you serving on a town board? Which ones and when?**

No

*** Why do you want to serve on a town board? What would you specifically like to accomplish?**

My family and I have lived in Hillsborough since 2018 and have grown to love the place. The walkable downtown, nearby cultural amenities, beautiful natural environment, and progressive culture make the Town a truly special space in a rapidly growing region. We are in the final stages (fingers crossed!) of a major renovation at our house and see Hillsborough as our long-term home. Serving on a Town Board is a chance for me to meaningfully give back to my community and apply some of my professional expertise/personal interests in bettering the Town overall.

*** Do you have relevant work, volunteer or educational experience for the boards you selected?**

I am a registered landscape architect and am currently the University Landscape Architect at UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to joining the University I worked at private landscape architecture studios in Durham and Cambridge, MA. I hold Master's degrees in City and Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture from UNC-Chapel Hill and Harvard University respectively. Working for over ten years in the design industry gives me the professional expertise to understand and provide meaningful comments on architectural drawings, planning initiatives, and tree planting standards. Working at UNC is in many ways like working at a major city - my day oscillates between large-scale campus planning work, reviewing technical design drawings, to providing detailed planting plans - all relevant to the Boards where I am currently applying.

*** How are you connected to Hillsborough?**

I have lived in Hillsborough since 2018.

*** Have you reviewed town plans and other documents available on the town website?**

Yes. I'm familiar with the Town's UDO, Land Use Plan, and Historic District Design Standards

*** What challenges facing the town could be addressed by the board or boards on which you wish to serve?**

I don't have to tell y'all that the region is booming and more and more people are looking to move to the area and specifically Hillsborough. I think the greatest challenge facing the Town is balancing the unique charms and personality of Hillsborough with the intensifying pressures for development. Like most of the country, buying a home in Hillsborough has become nearly impossible for young families and more can be done to help make the Town more accessible and accommodating for this type of growth. Striking this middle road is not easy, but I'm excited by the challenge of helping to find a solution to this emerging challenge. When it comes to the tree board, more needs to be done to plan for the future. I live off Margaret street which I believe is one of the most beautiful streets in the area. The continuous canopy cover of mature trees is a large part of that aesthetic. Since I've lived in Hillsborough there have been major natural events and planned utility work that have started to erode away this critical canopy. In near future, many of the large trees around Town could give way and there is currently little undergrowth or planned succession in place to replace this loss. More needs to be done to actively plan for the future.

*** How did you hear about this opportunity?**

Town staff member or elected official

I have been advised that I am committing to attend the appointed board's regular meetings. Attendance at the regular meetings is required for me to maintain membership on the board. The Board of Commissioners may declare a vacancy on the board because of non-attendance.

View the complete code in the Hillsborough Code of Ordinances: [Appointed Boards, Task Forces and Authorities](#).

Confirm understanding of attendance policy

Confirm