



Monday, March 24, 2025

Volunteer Application

Appointments for the City of Kingsport volunteer boards and commissions take place semi-annually in April and October, with applications being accepted in February for April appointments, and August for October appointments. Applications received late or for boards without vacancies will be held on file for one calendar year in case of unexpected vacancies.

Name

Bill Sumner

E-mail

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Do you live within the Kingsport City Limits?

Yes

Length of Residency:

65 years

Employer:

Bell Helicopter

Employment Status:

Full Time

Occupational Background:

Mechanical engineer

Educational Background:

BSME Tenn Tech
MBA ETSU

Thank you for your interest in serving the City of Kingsport. Please be aware of the meeting frequency, dates and times as well as characteristics of members before choosing which board you would like to serve on. Appointment to a board or commission will require your consistent attendance at regularly scheduled meetings.

Board of Zoning Appeals

[A description of each board/commission and the characteristics of members can be found here.](#)

Have you ever applied to serve on a Kingsport board or commission?

Yes

If you served on a board or commission in the past, which one and how many terms did you serve?

BZA. several. 10+ years

Reason for Applying:

Would like to continue on the board. We have done an excellent job working with all applicants with solid decisions backed up by facts. It is very rewarding to play a small part in growing the city

Relevant Experience:

Engineering background helps a lot Past few years have been very educational. I have a very good grasp of how the board functions.

Community Involvement:

Board Kingsport Salvation Army, Kingsport Inventor Center, Kingsport Chamber of Commerce; President St Luke Methodist Church Inc. several years on NETWORKS with 4 years as chairman.

Please upload a recent biography and a professional photo.



William P. Sumner P.E.

Bill Sumner is a native and life-long resident of Kingsport. He graduated from Dobyns Bennett in 1978, where he played football and was a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Since graduating with honors in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Tech University, Bill has held engineering, engineering management and manufacturing management positions most notably with Texas Instruments, Raytheon Missile Systems and Alenia/SKF. He received his MBA from East Tennessee State in 1990, and has over thirty years of management, business and manufacturing experience which has led to technology and financial success. He is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee, as well as a Six Sigma Black Belt. Bill most recently served as the Sr. Engineering Manager for Bell Textron in Piney Flats. He has received multiple innovation awards: the Larry Bell Pioneer Award and the Textron Chairman's Award for Innovation, and is a graduate of Textron's Growth Leadership Program at The Ohio State University. He holds six United States Patents in the area of Helicopter Design.

Bill currently serves Kingsport as Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals and is past Board Chairman of NETWORKS Sullivan County Partnership, serving for four years after several years as a board member. He also serves on the boards for Greater Kingsport Salvation Army, The Inventor Center and the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce Foundation/KOSBE Chair. He is a past member of the Kingsport Farmers Market, providing landscaping trees to the community for many years.

Bill is a lifetime member of St. Luke's Methodist Church on Center St., serves on the administrative board and is President of the Corporate Board.

He has two grown children, Sarah Simerly of Johnson City and Will Sumner of Portland OR, and is a proud grandfather.