

# Role of the WPWA Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is legally and morally (ethically) accountable for the health and effectiveness of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association. The Board ensures that the organization achieves its mission in an ethical, transparent, accountable, and prudent manner. The Board's job is governance, the ongoing process of due diligence whereby the Board operates as a collective to assure corporate health and effectiveness. Specifically, the Board is accountable for the functions described below. The Board operates in a manner outlined in its policies. The Board works in partnership with its Executive Director as articulated in various policies. The Executive Director provides leadership and support, enabling the Board to carry out its governance responsibility.

## Board Functions | Scope of Authority

All of this is accomplished as a group at board meetings through review of information, strategic questioning, dialogue, and decision-making.

1. *Articulate values and mission, and set standards, controls, and policies.* Ensure that all the organization's programs, activities, and operations adhere to these policies.
2. *Ensure that the organization is relevant to the community* through processes that monitor the external environment and define vision, direction, and strategy.
3. *Define and monitor key areas of performance* compared to short and long-range strategy / plans, assess results, and assure that steps are taken for continuous quality improvement in all areas.
4. *Ensure that the financial structure is adequate for current priorities, long-range strategy, sustainability, and intergenerational equity.*
5. *Ensure that adequate risk management is in place*, e.g., safety and security, insurance, data back-up, Executive Director succession, etc.
6. *Determine eligibility for Board membership, assure proper recruitment of candidates, elect members and officers, and assure proper orientation and mentoring of Board members.*

7. *Define and enforce parameters of the Board's work* including its committees / task forces and the role and performance of the individual Board member.
8. *Assess effectiveness.* Hire the organization's chief executive officer. Appraise his/her performance and set compensation; reward competence, or if necessary, replace the individual.
9. *Ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations* affecting the organization.
10. *Ensure effectiveness of management, without intruding in management's role and authority.*
11. *Ask strategic questions and provide candid advice and perspective* regarding the organization's health and effectiveness and the marketplace environment, without compromising management's authority.

## Responsibilities of WPWA Trustees

Individual WPWA Board members understand:

- 1) The mission of WPWA and its role watershed communities.
- 2) The importance of contributing to WPWA financially.
- 3) The value of engaging in task forces/committees.
- 4) The importance of participation at Board meetings and of being in support of board decisions.
- 5) The difference between their role and authority as board members, and their role as individual members/volunteers, where there is no more authority than there is for other members.
- 6) The that spreading the value of WPWA in the community matters, and makes a difference.