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CITY OF AMESBURY, MA

# Amesbury

Mayor Kassandra Gove

Office of the Mayor  
City Hall, 62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913-2884

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govek@amesburyma.gov

## Certificate of Appointment

January 17, 2025

I appoint Jena Jekums to the position of member of the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee for a term to expire February 28, 2027, and I certify that said person is qualified to perform the duties of the said office, and I make this appointment solely in the interest of the City of Amesbury.

This appointment shall not become effective until twenty-one days following filing with the city clerk, in accordance with the Amesbury Home Rule Charter.

**Kassandra Gove**

Mayor

## Ann Marie Casey

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 21, 2024 8:55 PM  
**To:** Ann Marie Casey; Ryan Connelly  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Volunteer Application for Appointed Positions

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you have confirmed that the content is safe.

### Volunteer Application for Appointed Positions

|  |  |
|--|--|
| First Name   | Jena   |
| Last Name  | Jekums   |
| Home Address   | 4 currier st   |
| City   | amesbury   |
| State  | ma   |
| Zip Code   | 01913  |
| Mailing Address (If Different)   | <i>Field not completed.</i>  |
| City   | <i>Field not completed.</i>  |
| State  | <i>Field not completed.</i>  |
| Zip Code   | <i>Field not completed.</i>  |
| Phone  | 7147339050   |
| Email  | jenaocan@gmail.com   |
| Which Board, Commission or Committee are you applying for?                                 | Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee   |
| Please explain why you would like to serve on a particular Board, Commission or Committee: | I want to serve on the Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee for three reasons which I will list below.<br><br>1. I've lived in Amesbury for 3.5 years, and during that time, I've developed a deep appreciation for the natural resources that surround our community. When my husband and I moved |

here, we didn't know much about the area—we essentially picked Amesbury by chance. So, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that just a short walk from our apartment, there was a beautiful lake. As an open-water swimmer, I quickly found that Lake Gardner became my personal sanctuary. Every summer, I swim the 1.7-mile round-trip route from Lake Gardner Beach to the small shore on Battis Farm. Sometimes I will swim over, get tired, and walk the trails through the woods back to the beach instead. The land has given me much. I only wish to give back.

2. I believe that the land is sacred and that a community cannot be truly healthy without a healthy relationship with the land. This belief forms the foundation of my passion for environmental stewardship. I see land not as a resource to be exploited but as something that sustains and nourishes us all.

3. There's a line in a song that says, "I want to be in the room where it happens," and that really resonates with me. Growing up, I wasn't encouraged to express political opinions, and politics wasn't something I actively engaged with. However, as I've matured, I've come to understand that everything in life is political because everything involves human beings and the decisions we make. My passion for land stewardship is paired with a strong desire to understand the political dynamics that shape environmental policies. I've realized that effective stewardship requires not only a respect for nature but also an understanding of the political systems that impact how we manage and protect it. I'm excited about the opportunity to contribute to this work and be part of shaping policies that reflect the values of sustainability, equity, and respect for the land.

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Please briefly describe your education and any relevant work or life experience or other activity which, in your opinion, would be beneficial in carrying out the responsibilities of this office. If necessary, attach additional sheets or your resume.

In 2020, I earned my bachelor's degree in Theology from Gordon College. While many might see such a degree as unconventional for this role, it has provided me with a profound understanding of how religion—specifically Western Evangelicalism—has shaped our political landscape. Our worldview influences how we view the land, our neighbors, and even the future. I believe that to understand the current political climate, we must first grasp how religious narratives have shaped ideas of ownership, power, and stewardship in the U.S.

In all my work, whether directing recruitment for Rye's Beach Lifeguarding program or helping manage a small chicken farm during the pandemic, I have witnessed the impact of power dynamics on how we treat each other and the world around us. These dynamics are often shaped by underlying stories—

whether about human supremacy or the view that nature is something to be exploited. I am committed to helping share and shape new stories about the sovereignty of the land, stories that encourage stewardship, equity, and sustainability.

Additionally, I have always been passionate about bridging the gap between people and nature. My first job was unpaid; I was 13 and worked as the youngest docent at a butterfly house off the highway in Newport Beach, CA. I have seen how powerful even one meaningful and educational interaction with the natural world can be. People who develop an emotional connection to the land are more likely to advocate for it when challenges arise. I am excited about the opportunity to help others build these connections through my work on the committee.

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Please list any City offices you have held in Amesbury or elsewhere. Please share the name of the Office held, the date you were appointed or elected, and the date when your term expired.

N/a

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Public service on a Board, Committee, or Commission can be demanding. Please indicate the realistic time commitment you are willing and able to make:

2 to 4 hours per week

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Additionally, please describe any standing commitments you may have which might conflict with set meeting schedules:

I work a regular 9-5 work week, plus twice a month, I work Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. I have some flexibility if given dates in advance.

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How did you hear about the vacancy on this City Board, Committee or Commission?

City Website

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## Applicant's Statement & Signature

I hereby submit this as my application for the position I have indicated on the front of this form. I understand that my completion of this form in no way assures appointment. All Board, Committee, and Commission vacancies will be filled by citizens deemed most qualified to serve in a particular capacity. I also understand that in the event that I am appointed to a position, my activities will be governed by the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law (M.G.L. c. 268A), the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c. 39), the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 66), the Massachusetts Campaign Finance Law (M.G.L. c. 55), the Amesbury City Charter and ordinances, and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws or regulations.

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| Electronic Signature | Jena Jekums |
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|------|------------|
| Date | 12/21/2024 |
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