

BOARD STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition is governed by a Board of Directors that is elected by the organization's membership. The Board is directly accountable to the membership for the activities and accomplishments of the organization. Specifically, it is responsible for:

1. Interacting with members to understand their needs, values, and visions for SVBC.
2. Developing, monitoring, and revising a body of policies that guide the organization and Board to achieve outcomes that are consistent with the organization's values and vision.
3. Ensuring, through consistent monitoring mechanisms, that the organization achieves the goals set by the Board and that the Board operates according to its established processes.
4. Consistent board meeting attendance helps provide critical governance oversight by the board and is required. The board meets monthly on the second Monday of the month typically at 5:30 pm in Downtown Harrisonburg
5. Much of the work of the board is accomplished in committees. Directors are encouraged to join and attend meetings of at least one committee or develop a new committee.
6. Many directors help arrange for the donation of resources or management time from their companies or their network to assist management on particular issues or problems.
7. Advocacy and Networking. Directors are expected to be strong advocates for the SVBC within the community. Advocacy and networking are especially important when the SVBC launches a new program or initiative.
8. Building the board is a continual process. Directors are expected to help the SVBC find new directors who support SVBC's mission, are willing to advocate on behalf of SVBC, who will work well with other members of the board, and who are willing to leverage their networks to assist the SVBC with its mission. Helping to build the board is everyone's responsibility.

ELIGIBILITY, DESIRED ATTRIBUTES, & QUALIFICATIONS

Eligibility (per the Bylaws):

1. You must be an active member of SVBC in good standing and agree to uphold the Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and the Bylaws, as amended, of this organization. Good standing is defined as:
Projecting a positive image, conducting oneself in a professional manner, respecting the rights of other directors, staff and members to express their ideas and communicating with honesty and respect.
2. You must agree to uphold the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the organization.
3. All Directors are elected to represent the membership as a whole and not the interest of a particular constituency.
4. Directors cannot own, run or be employed in a business that is in direct competition with this organization.

Length of Term

1. Each board member shall serve a three-year term from the effective date. A board member may serve up to two successive three-year terms.

B. Time Commitment Required

1. The board of directors meets every month for an average of 2 hours per meeting.
2. Committees of the SVBC meet three to six times a year, depending on the committee.
3. Directors are expected to attend an annual board retreat, of one day in length.
4. Board members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and other SVBC events as appropriate and within the director's available time.
5. Board members are encouraged to attend the monthly membership social which typically immediately follows the monthly board meeting.

Desired attributes:

By far, the most important attribute for Board service is the commitment of your time and energy to the Board's work. Our Board has only 9 members so it is vital that every director accepts responsibility to contribute and honors that commitment.

Potential Board candidates should possess these qualifications:

- Have attended at least two board meetings within 16 months of their desire to run for a seat on the board.
- Are dedicated to the success of SVBC.
- Understand the Board's approach to governance and willingness to learn and embrace its methods and policies.
- Display discipline in participation through attendance, email and taking part in meetings, committee work, and ongoing training.
- Ability to assertively join in the debate of Board-level issues, with no reluctance to express dissent.
- Willingness to commit time to official external functions, such as membership focus groups and committee work.

-Willingness to stand behind policies of the Board regardless of their personal stance taken prior to the vote.

-Understand the Board's role in defining values, vision and long-term viability of the Bicycle Coalition.

-Willingness to support the Executive Director when he or she has acted in compliance with Board policies.

-Without question, governing an organization effectively is a serious commitment. Board members are expected to prepare for and actively participate in every monthly meeting, committee work between the meetings, SVBC's Annual Members' Meeting, other membership events, and occasional training sessions.

-The Board is a team, sharing responsibilities in a way to make it's work a manageable part of members' lives. The time commitment as a Board member ranges from 4-8 hours per month and includes the monthly meetings, committee work, emailing, and in-and out-of-event activities. The term of a Director lasts for 3 years.