



City of New Bedford
IN COMMITTEE

October 14, 2021

The Honorable City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Appointments & Briefings at a Meeting held on Thursday, September 30, 2021, considered a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of REBECA LINHART, New Bedford, MA, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, Ms. Linhart will be replacing Jacob Gonsalves whose term has expired; this term will expire June 2023. (Ref'd 06/24/2021) (07/28/2021 – tabled, applicant not present)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of REBECA LINHART, New Bedford, MA, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, Ms. Linhart will be replacing Jacob Gonsalves whose term has expired; this term will expire June 2023. This motion passed on a voice vote of all ayes.

IN COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS &
BRIEFINGS

Naomi R. A. Carney
Councillor Naomi R. A. Carney, Chairperson

NRAC: dmb



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD BOARD & COMMISSION APPLICATION

The Mayor is seeking citizens who wish to serve on City Boards and Commissions established to assist and advise the City on specific matters. Please complete this application in full (attach a resume and other information which may assist the Mayor and the City Council in making its selection) and file it with the Mayor's Office. The Mayor reserves the right to reject any application. Some appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council.

Board/Commission applying for: (see reverse side) Conservation Commission

Name: Rebeca Linhart

Email: ---

Home Telephone: ---

Work Telephone: ---

Residence Address: 1992 Shawmut Ave.

Zip: ---

Present Occupation & Place of Employment: Graduate Student, Mount Allison University

Educational Background: BS Wildlife and Conservation Biology, minor in Marine Biology MSc in Biology

Memberships in Community Organizations or Professional Groups:

None as of yet, I am a new to the community and looking to get involved.

City Boards and/or Commissions on which you have previously served:

None

The reasons why you wish to be considered for appointment by the Mayor:

I have a strong background in environmental work and would love to contribute to this community by using my strengths to benefit our local environment and promote conservation.

Please detail specific areas of expertise:

Ornithology and birding. Public outreach and environmental education. Ocean science.

Please detail specific areas of interest:

I'd love to start a program to get kids interested in birding, a trail maintenance crew, or some environmental awareness initiatives. I'd like to be involved with conservation decision making as well.

Available for meetings in the daytime ☐ evenings ☐ both ☒ (check one)

Resident of the City since what year: 2019

Appointees and incumbents may be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest, as required by the City Council Rules or the Mayor. The statement may require a declaration that you have no interest in conflict with the City of New Bedford. Please return your completed application to the Mayor's Office, 133 William St., Room 311, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Applications will be kept on file for two years.

**I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING
INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

Signature of Applicant: Rebeca Linhart

Date: 2020-10-15

Rebeca Linhart

1992 Shawmut Avenue,

Education

Master of Science (MSc)

Mount Allison University- Expected graduation December 2020

Biology

Academic Advisor: Dr. Diana Hamilton

Thesis title: "*Stopover Ecology of Adult and Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers (Calidris pusilla) in Atlantic Canada*" and "*Movement, Behaviour, Diet and Habitat Use of Semipalmated Sandpipers (Calidris pusilla) in Ceará State, Brazil*"

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

University of Rhode Island 2011-2015

Wildlife and Conservation Biology (Minor: Marine Biology)

Academic Advisor: Dr. Nancy Karraker

GPA 3.6/4.0

Publications

Grant, D.M., J.B. Cohen, M.L. Stantial, **R.C. Linhart**. 2019. Substrate-level nest site selection of sympatric Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) and American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) in New Jersey, USA. *Waterbirds*, 42(3): 272-281.

Awards

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Working Group

October 2019 Panama City, Panama

Student Travel Award

Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS),

May 2019 Halifax, NS, Canada

Runner-up, Graduate Student Presentation

NBIF STEM Graduate Scholarship: \$4000

September 2018 Sackville, NB Canada

Research Assistantships

Graduate Research Assistant (MSc)

- Assisted in the capture and banding of ~2000 shorebirds in Atlantic Canada and ~300 shorebirds in Ceará State, Brazil. Collected blood and feather samples for plasma metabolite and stable isotope analysis. Completed lab work for all analyses.
- Built and maintained network of Motus (Motus Wildlife Tracking Network) towers and deployed nearly 400 nanotags. Completely analyzed tracking data for habitat use, duration of stay, and large-scale movements.
- Collected and analyzed behavioral data on foraging Semipalmated Sandpipers.
- Reached out to local landowners and businesses in Canada and Brazil forming partnerships and finding locations for Motus towers.
- Assisted in the supervision and mentoring of multiple undergraduate research assistants and honours students.

Professional Work Experience

Massachusetts Audubon Society-Coastal Waterbird Program

Barnstable, MA March-August 2018

Beach Nesting Bird Field Coordinator

- Assisted in the supervision and training of over 25 field staff in the monitoring of Piping Plovers and other beach nesting birds across coastal Massachusetts
- Implemented a new data collection and management system for the program
- Maintained strong communication with various stakeholders and property owners
- Wrote reports for landowners and state officials detailing management of endangered and threatened species
- Followed and informed the public on state and local laws concerning endangered and threatened species

Northeastern Marine Science Center

Nahant, MA August 2017-March 2018

Beach Sisters Program Coordinator

- Recruited, mentored and provided training to 6 high school ages students
- Developed and delivered marine science programming to youth at Girl's Inc. of Lynn following NGSS curriculum standards
- Developed and maintained partnerships with outside organizations and city officials
- Facilitated and implemented community-based projects including a recycling workshop, beginning and successfully implementing a petition to ban plastic bags in Lynn, and started a street art initiative to paint storm drains to raise awareness about ocean pollution

SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry

Southern NJ, April 2017-August 2017

Crew Leader- Piping Plover Research Project

- Continued to assist with research from previous year
- Mentored an intern and assisted in developing and implementing a research project resulting in publication
- Managed a large and complex database for a Doctoral Project
- Maintained communications with multiple federal and state agencies, as well as other local stakeholders

Research Technician

Southern NJ, April 2016-August 2016

- Captured and banded adult and juvenile Piping Plovers
- Re-sighted banded birds, conducted behavioral observations, predator tracking surveys and nest searching/monitoring
- Supervised 6 interns and taught them field and research techniques

URI W. Alton Jones Campus Environmental Education Center

West Greenwich, RI September 2016-March 2017

Field Teacher/Naturalist Point Person

- Supervised 8-10 field teachers and made weekly schedules
- Communicated with clients, addressed concerns and ensured programs ran smoothly
- Gained experience running an office in a professional setting within the environmental education center

Field Teacher/Naturalist

West Greenwich, RI August 2015-December 2015

- Worked as part of a team of field teachers communicating science to students from 4th-12th grade
- Taught wildlife, forest and wetland ecology as well as American history, archaeology, and team building.
- Developed and executed lesson plans while interacting with young people

National Audubon Society- Project Puffin

Bremen, ME May 2015-August 2015

Seabird Research Assistant

- Lived and worked in a remote primitive camp setting on Eastern Egg Rock Island
- Trapped and banded 7 different bird species including chicks and adults. Some species monitored were threatened or endangered
- Collected productivity and morphological measurements on birds from hatching to fledging
- Participated in multiple research initiatives including feeding studies, incubation temperature in terns, etc.
- Maintained a detailed database
- Conducted lethal predator management

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Charlestown, RI May 2014-August 2014

Shorebird Monitoring Intern

- Monitored nesting Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, and Least Terns on Rhode Island beaches
- Estimated flock size, resighted leg bands on Roseate and Common Terns
- Effectively communicated laws surrounding endangered and threatened wildlife to public and other government organizations

U.S. Forest Service

Silverthorne, CO June 2013-August 2013

Fisheries Technician

- Conducted field surveys for Boreal Toad and Cutthroat Trout, both sensitive species in the region
- Electroshocked fish using backpack shocker and shoreline shockers
- Collected genetic samples from Cutthroat Trout and used mark recapture techniques for fish surveys
- Performed macro-invertebrate sampling and invasive Brook Trout removal

Invited Lectures and Professional Presentations

- Linhart, R.C. 2020 Skype a Scientist. "The Life of a Shorebird." Lectured for 3 different classes across the US.
- Linhart, R.C. 2019. "Semipalmated Sandpiper Stopover Ecology in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia." Bay of Fundy Working Group. Sackville, NB.
- Linhart, R.C. 2019. "Stopover Ecology of adult and juvenile sandpipers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia." Friends of the Pugwash Estuary. Pugwash, NS.
- Linhart, R.C. 2018. "Life as a Wildlife Biologist" Girls Inc. of Lynn. Lynn, MA.
- Linhart, R.C. 2017. "Dispatches from the Beachfront: The Art and Science of Beach Nesting Bird Management." New Jersey Audubon Society. Cape May, NJ.

Conference Presentations

- Linhart, R.C.** "Movement, behaviour and habitat use of Semipalmated Sandpipers in Ceará, Brazil." International Shorebird Twitter Conference. October 7-8, 2020.
- Linhart, R.C.,** S.S. Davis, D.J. Hamilton, J. Paquet, and C. Gratto-Trevor. "Stopover ecology of adult and juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) in the Bay of Fundy and other coastal sites." International Wader Study Group, 2020 Virtual Conference. October 10-11, 2020.
- Linhart, R.C.,** D.J. Hamilton, J. Paquet, J.A. Mobley, O. Monteiro, G. Ramires. "Movement, habitat use, body condition and migration of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) wintering at the Bancos dos Cajuais (Ceará, Brazil)." International Wader Study Group, 2020 Virtual Conference. October 10-11, 2020.
- Linhart, R.C.,** S.S. Davis, D.J. Hamilton, J. Paquet, and C. Gratto-Trevor. "Stopover ecology of adult and juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) in the Bay of Fundy and other coastal sites." 8th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Working Group Meeting, Panama City, Panama. October 24-28, 2019. *Student travel award recipient
- Linhart, R.C.,** S.S. Davis, D.J. Hamilton, J. Paquet. "Use of coastal and Bay of Fundy sites by migrating Semipalmated Sandpipers." Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society (ACCESS), Halifax, NS. May 9-10, 2019. * Runner-up Graduate Student Presentation

Other Experience

Computer Skills:

- R Statistical Software, ArcGIS, Microsoft Excel, Word, Powerpoint, eBird

Professional Skills and Experience:

- Member of the Mount Allison Animal Care Committee (September 2018-June 2021) evaluating research and animal handling protocols for all research conducted at the university

Field Skills:

- Use of mist nets and rocket nets
- Identification of plants in the Northeastern US
- Identification of birds including songbirds, shorebirds and waterfowl

Certifications:

- First Aid and CPR (American Red Cross)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation (International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council)
- Wildland Search Skills (NY State)
- Advanced open water scuba, NITROX, external wreck survey and dry suit certifications (NAUI)
- Boating Safety (US Power Squadron).

Languages:

English (primary), American Sign Language (fluent), Portuguese- Brazilian (Intermediate)

Other Activities:

Hiking, birding, scuba diving, camping, boating, gardening, cooking. Running a small duck farm.

Professional References

Dr. Diana Hamilton
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CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

June 16, 2021

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am submitting for your approval the **APPOINTMENT** of **REBECCA LINHART** of 1992 Shawmut Avenue, to the **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**. Ms. Linhart will be replacing Jacob Gonsalves whose term has expired. This term will expire in June 2023.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

JFM/sds

cc: Rebecca Linhart
Conservation Commission

CITY CLERK

2021 JUN 17 PM 2:01

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NEW BEDFORD, MA