

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL INTERVIEW MINUTES
May 13, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

1. ROLL CALL: The Bedford Town Council conducted Board and Commission interviews on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 virtually without a physical location in compliance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Vice Chair) and Councilors, Phil Greazzo, Bill Duschatko, Melissa Stevens, Bill Carter and Lori Radke. Also participating virtually was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Gilbert opened the interviews at 6:00 PM.

Bob MacPherson

Mr. MacPherson talked about his involvement in the Master Plan process and would only approve it if it enhanced the citizens of Bedford. Councilor Duschatko mentioned that sometimes the Master Plan was in conflict with existing Zoning bylaws and how would he react to that. Mr. MacPherson thought the current laws of the Town would be most important. That's what the people of Bedford voted for. Unless there was a very good reason to go against their wishes he would say the ordinances would prevail. He thought being a Planning Board member was to serve the residents. They are the taxpayers. Councilor Radke mentioned his membership on the Conservation Commission and wanted to know if there was a time where he was faced with a situation that made him think about his decision and if so, how did he handle it. Mr. MacPherson stated that there had been time where the Conservation Commission was asked to make an exception and he chose not to, because if you keep making exceptions, you obliterate the rules. He didn't feel there was an overwhelming reason to grant the exception.

Chairman Gilbert asked if he would be interested in another board, and Mr. MacPherson responded probably not. He is interested in the Planning Board and would give 110%.

Stephanie Jones

Chairman Gilbert wanted to know why she was applying for the Conservation Commission. Ms. Jones said that they are new residents and wanted to become involved in community. She was particularly interested in Conservation. She has a Bachelors in environmental science and thought it would be helpful. She's younger and thought a different perspective would be beneficial. Councilor Carter wanted to know if she ever served on a Conservation Commission or other capacity of a town. Ms. Jones stated no. Councilor Ricciardi wanted to know how she felt the town allocating any money to preserve open space. Ms. Jones was in favor. A lot of residents enjoy and benefit greatly from open spaces within Bedford and surrounding areas.

Chairman Gilbert wanted to know if she would consider another board. Ms. Jones stated that it would depend on which one, but would be happy to participate in other committees to benefit the Town.

Bart Fromuth

Chairman Gilbert mentioned that he was applying for the Energy Commission and is an energy lawyer. He wanted to know how Mr. Fromuth saw the Energy Commission's charter. Mr. Fromuth responded that there was no real power within the Energy Commission, but he would be available through the Energy Commission to the Town Council as a resource to provide guidance on any project that might be before them. Councilor Carter wanted him to explain energy in this economy. Mr. Fromuth thought there were a lot of changes coming forth and talked about aggregate electricity. He thought he would be a good resource to the Town council to guide them through that. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if he viewed the energy commission as advisory or policy making. Mr. Fromuth said advisory only. Councilor Radke wanted to know where he saw energy 50 years from now. Mr. Fromuth thought they would make tremendous strides with a lot more transactive energy.

Chairman Gilbert asked if he would be interested in another board. Mr. Fromuth thought he would be best served on the Energy commission.

Thomas Elwood

Chairman Gilbert mentioned that Mr. Elwood applied for Planning Board and Energy Commission. Mr. Elwood would like to work with the Town. The direction the Town is going to take was very important to him and the Planning Board had a lot going on right now. Energy was an interesting topic and thought it could use some help. He's got an energy background and a legal background and thought he could give some assistance. Chairman Gilbert asked if he was faced with granting a waiver would he grant it and why. Mr. Elwood stated that he would first see what the statute said and if there was any flexibility and what the important factors were including if the Town was going to benefit, if the Town was going to be affected positively or negatively and would make the best choice from those factors. Councilor Carter wanted to know his first year goal and 10-year plan if he was on Planning Board. Mr. Elwood stated that his 10-year plan would not let the Town turn into a high-rise suburb like Manchester and Boston. He thought there were parts of the Town that could be developed better and better for the Town.

John Quintal

Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Quintal was applying for Planning Board and the Highway Safety Committee. Councilor Greazzo mentioned how the other two Planning Board applicants would do what's best for the Town and wanted to know what he would do for the individual and if it came to a waiver. Mr. Quintal thought it was an obligation to the people and to the Town. One thing that piqued his interest was the Macy's property where the builder claimed hardship and they need to build these high rises. This was a

company that has a lot of money. The Town's issue should have been to go with what was coming and the Planning Board guidelines. He didn't think they had a great proposal for why they needed this exception to build all these apartments as opposed to their original plan. He recently retired so he's looking for something to do with this time. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if an individual that has a few acres and wants a waiver and would he side with the individual or the Town. Mr. Quintal stated that he would follow the Town's guidelines, but would look at what's best overall and for the Town. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know about his interest on the Highway Safety Committee. Mr. Quintal stated that he was a former firefighter/paramedic, military, crash investigation. Councilor Carter wanted to know his goal and vision for the next 10 years if he was appointed to the Planning Board. Mr. Quintal's plan would be prosperity for the Town. He wants to see good projects for the Town and that are good for the Town and do his part in volunteering.

Jimmy Astarita

Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Astarita was applying for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Councilor Radke stated that she served with Mr. Astarita on recreation boards many years ago and wanted to know why he's coming back. Mr. Astarita stated that he works for the Sportsplex in Bedford. He had been very involved in sports in Town. He's interested in passive recreation and more walking trails and still be involved in youth and adult sports. He hopes he can give everyone some institutional history on sports. He would like to help make some correct decisions and offer his time. Councilor Ricciardi wanted to know his opinion on pay to play on the fields. Mr. Astarita mentioned that there used to be a maintenance fee that local Town sports participated in and they need to get that back. He thought it was a way to get the groups together. There are a lot of people that are using the fields that aren't Bedford residents. He sees coaches out there that are charging money to their clients while using Town fields and the Town isn't charging them. Councilor Radke stated that he was very helpful getting Joppa Hill field and Mr. Astarita talked about his involvement.

Stephen Clough

Chair Gilbert stated that Mr. Clough was applying for the Planning Board. He wanted to know if he was presented with an application to waive a current Zoning regulation, how he would decide to grant a waiver. Mr. Clough thought they would have to look at the Zoning regulations as their baseline. He thought granting a waiver was always a special request so he would certainly listen to the committee and see what they have to say. He thought granting a waiver was a special request and should be looked at on a case by case basis. Councilor Carter what would his vision of the future for the Town for the next 10 years. Mr. Clough thought Bedford was popular and all towns need to grow. Growth is inevitable, but they need to do it smartly and have balanced growth based on the new Master Plan. The vision for 10 years they need to look towards the master plan and the other committees in Town and what they have to say about growth. They've seen a lot of growth in Bedford and didn't know that that would abate. Councilor Carter wanted to know that with the COVID-19, he thought it would pushout that far when it comes to the Master

Plan and wanted to know how he would he get them further along on that Plan. Mr. Clough stated that he saw a lot of belt tightening coming up. He would have to learn a lot about taxes. They should try and maintain adequate tax revenue and keep businesses from moving out. They need to look carefully at what's going to happen as far as tax revenue and belt tightening.

Chairman Gilbert asked him if he would be interested in another board. Mr. Clough responded yes. He was interested in the Conservation Commission, but thought Planning Board would be a better fit as far as his background.

Lisa Muskat

Chairman Gilbert stated that Ms. Muskat was applying for the Historic District Commission. He wanted to know her goal if on the Historic District Commission. Ms. Muskat stated that she was a 20 year resident and has been before the board a few times. She's in the design industry in the architecture field. Been intrigued by the Committee over the years, but never had enough time on the personal end to get involved. Historic design has always been her passion. She would like to bring her knowledge and expertise to the Historic District. Councilor Radke wanted to know if she's seen a change in the Historic District since she's lived in it. She saw it from a building standpoint. People wanting more transitional housing and different styles. Those styles can be adapted to meet historic requirements. It's interesting to her, but it can be a difficult thing for people to understand how to use the language of historic architecture and make it successful and still feel appropriate.

Chairman Gilbert asked if she would be interested in another board. She would entertain it, but the Historic District Commission was truly her area of interest.

Janet Tamulevich

Chairman Gilbert stated that Ms. Tamulevich was interested in the Planning Board. He wanted to know if she was presented with an application request for a waiver how she would decide her answer. Ms. Tamulevich stated that she would look at their ordinances and regulations and make sure it was in compliance and what the effect on the Town and neighbors would be. She would start asking questions and doing research before giving her opinion. Councilor Carter wanted to know her goals and the development in Town in the next 10 years especially in this COVID-19 situation that they are in right now. Ms. Tamulevich stated that she would take a look at the Master Plan and continue to build on that. The COVID has given them a loop, but there might be other things they may have to stay back and recharge. Councilor Carter mentioned that she was on the Historic District Commission. Ms. Tamulevich stated that she was 4½ years on the Historic District Commission and she was also the chairperson and thought she had met everyone in the Historic District and she wanted to expand her help with the Town.

George Pervanas

Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Pervanas was interested in the BCTV-WBNH Board. He wanted to know about his interest. Mr. Pervanas stated that he was doing a blues show on WBNH. He's been a Bedford resident for 32 years. He has the time now to get more involved with the things going on with the Town and being on the radio puts him in a position to re-evaluate the stations going forward with public information. He doesn't have a lot of TV experience, but he has radio experience going back to college days.

Chairman Gilbert asked if he would be interested in another board. He would consider it if he had the time and it was something he could positively influence or bring something to the table and not be a detriment to the committee.

Elizabeth Jude

Chairman Gilbert stated that Ms. Jude was interested in the Zoning Board and wanted to know about her interest and why she was applying. Ms. Jude thought that her experience professionally would give her a unique perspective. She was new to Bedford, NH, and New England. She moved from phoenix AZ and thought it was important to be involved in the community. She was the administrator for the HOA. She enjoyed being part of a community and having an impact and thought she would be able to add value. Councilor Carter thought the Zoning Board was an intense situation when it comes to rules and regulations and the RSA's and wanted to know her view on RSA's and how to apply them for the residents. Ms. Jude stated that from her professional experience some things they can't budge on. The law is the law. They have to be able to deal with conflict and deal with confrontational individuals. You have to be able to articulate why they making the decision they were making. She values that they have rules and regulations that they are required to follow. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if the schedule would be a problem as the board meets on Tuesday at 7. Ms. Jude said that it wouldn't be a problem for her.

Chairman Gilbert asked her if she would be interested in another board. Ms. Jude stated that she would be interested.

Kevin Gagne

Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Gagne was applying for the Planning Board. Mr. Gagne stated that he has been a professional licensed engineer for almost 25 years and a Bedford resident since 2005. He talked about his Planning Board experience as a site review engineer for other towns. He thought it helps having a professional engineer on board. He has presented and defended projects before Planning Boards. He has represented towns as a consultant engineer on municipal projects. From 2010-2013 he was on the Conservation Commission. He would like to apply his skills for the benefit of Bedford by volunteering again. Councilor Carter wanted to know his goal or vision of Bedford over the next 10 years as it pertains to the Planning Board. Mr. Gagne thought the Planning Board's role itself is not necessarily marking the direction of Bedford and where it's going to be 10 years from now. He saw the role of the board itself as being the arbiter of projects that go before the Planning Board that are presented in accordance with the site plan review process and being the review and discussion and determining

that those Town regulations were being followed. Making sure the project is in keeping with the Town's Master Plan and keeping with the Town's regulations. He talked about the Planning Board working with Becky Hebert, the Planning and Zoning Director. There is a role that the Planning Board works with the Planning Director in determining the vision on what the community was going to look like 10 years from now. The Master Plan is not driven by solely the Planning Board. There will be a group to review and provide recommendations. As a member of the Planning Board, the only role he would have as far as Bedford 10 years from now would to be an active citizen joining steering committees and try to assist in the development of the Master Plan and making sure that the roadmap for Bedford was consistent with the views of the people of Bedford. Councilor Radke wanted to know how far he would go to challenge the decisions of the Town's engineer or consultant if he saw a discrepancy. Mr. Gagne stated that he would assist in helping to provide his professional opinion.

Chairman Gilbert asked if he would have an interest in another board. Mr. Gagne stated that he would entertain it, but he thought he would be able to offer much more to the Planning Board and where he was most qualified to serve.

Mr. Gagne wanted to address one of the questions that was asked of the other Planning Board candidates, but not asked of him. Chairman Gilbert stated that they had to start their regular meeting.

The interviews ended at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford