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—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special 2
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43093



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Mayo, Evans-Frantz, and Thurber: profiles in civility

####END HED####

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3 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 Civility. Respect for the facts. Listening thoughtfully.

5 Explaining clearly and fully.

6 These are not merely qualities to hope for (or, these days,
7 to long for wistfully) in our elected officials, they are essential to
8 good governance.

9 When these things are present, the public is well-served
10 even on those occasions when the Selectboard's decisions are
11 different from what we would have preferred. And when they are

12 absent, our community is harmed even when the Selectboard's
13 decisions are in line with our own desires.

14 I'm voting for Nell Mayo, Isaac Evans-Frantz, and
15 Amanda Ellis-Thurber this year, and I hope you will, too.

16 Among the first-time candidates, Nell Mayo stands out as
17 someone who always does the homework, listens carefully to the
18 discussions, and speaks respectfully and inclusively when it is her
19 turn. She is particularly impressive when she is reminding those
20 in power of facts they have inadvertently overlooked or
21 intentionally disregarded.

22 At times when others are ratcheting up divisiveness and
23 argument, Nell consistently brings down the temperature in the
24 room by speaking in a respectful tone and sticking to the facts.
25 Nell's thorough, intelligent, even-tempered approach would
26 positively impact the quality of Selectboard discussions and
27 decisions.

28 As an incumbent, Isaac Evans-Frantz has a Selectboard
29 record to run on. That record reflects that he addresses all issues
30 transparently, without demeaning those who disagree with him.
31 He has raised matters for Selectboard consideration that would
32 otherwise have been overlooked in the conduct of town business,
33 and our community is better and stronger for that.

34 Perhaps most importantly, Isaac has tirelessly advocated
35 for openness, inclusive processes, and accountability in town
36 government. The Selectboard does the public's business.
37 Regardless of our particular points of view, we are all better
38 served when the Selectboard sincerely invites public participation
39 and is open and accountable to the public for the results.

40 Amanda Ellis-Thurber also is an incumbent who has
41 consistently demonstrated her commitment to open processes
42 and respectful communication. Although I haven't always agreed
43 with her on the policy direction she has supported, I have
44 appreciated how she works with people in making decisions
45 rather than talking at them or down to them.

46 Her main opponent for the three-year seat is Liz
47 McLoughlin, who frequently demeans, bullies, and speaks in
48 terms of exercising power rather than in terms of building
49 consensus or community. Liz has had her chance to lead and has
50 presided over a period of financial dysfunction and increased
51 divisiveness.

52 We need change. Amanda represents that change in the
53 positive, curious, and respectful manner in which she approaches
54 the Selectboard's work.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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