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—For section..... Voices/Letters from readers
—Format..... Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special 2
—Dateline..... Brattleboro
—Article Number:..... 43038



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Evans-Frantz, Mayo: moving forward as a town with
2 dignity and thoughtfulness

####END HED####

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 I urge Brattleboro voters to vote for Isaac Evans-Frantz
6 and Nell Mayo for the two one-year seats on the Brattleboro
7 Selectboard.

8 In the current climate of federal attacks on civil rights
9 and the withdrawal of federal support for our most vulnerable
10 residents, there has never been a more important moment to have

11 courageous and principled people serving in our local
12 government.

13 Isaac has been an essential voice on the Selectboard this
14 past year. Last year he ran on the promise to listen to the
15 community and bring all voices to the table.

16 The board often hears from business owners and people
17 with relative economic stability, but throughout the last year Isaac
18 has found ways to bring voices that are often ignored or excluded
19 into the conversation. He often hosts meetings with constituents
20 at the community center 69A, and has been thoughtful about
21 bringing our concerns to be considered by the Selectboard. I
22 have been impressed by his steadfastness and at times courage in
23 bringing up difficult topics.

24 Isaac also consistently brings forward the perspective of
25 Brattleboro voters in general, reminding the board that they are
26 accountable to votes that have been taken by Brattleboro voters
27 at the ballot and the 180 elected representatives at Representative
28 Town Meeting.

29 For example, Isaac, along with Oscar Heller, voted to
30 oppose the motion to eliminate all funding to human service
31 organizations, citing the results from Brattleboro voters last March
32 where 63% of voters supported allocating more than 1% of our
33 town budget to our partner human service organizations.

34 Isaac also promised to focus on affordability and has
35 been extremely consistent in pushing for our town to adopt more
36 financially-responsible practices.

37 One example is replenishing our emergency funds and
38 resuming long-term planning, a practice that had been
39 abandoned since the retirement of former Town Manager Peter
40 Elwell. Isaac voted against the budget that the rest of the board
41 chose to put before voters because of his commitment to an
42 affordable tax rate.

43 Adding more reasonable voices to the board will be
44 essential in returning our town to the financial health and

45 compassionate leadership that we have enjoyed in the past, and
46 that is why I'm also excited to vote for newcomer Nell Mayo.

47 I first met Nell in the winter of 2024, helping to serve
48 meals to hungry neighbors on Flat Street. In 2025 they
49 volunteered to serve on the town's Finance Committee, providing
50 citizen oversight on the Selectboard's budget. They have become
51 well-recognized by those who watch Selectboard meetings for
52 their consistent attendance, extensive notetaking, and thoughtful
53 comments.

54 Due to their service on the Finance Committee, Nell has
55 a deep understanding of our town's budget and the challenges
56 the Selectboard faced in developing it. I have deep admiration for
57 the way they connect with people of all perspectives on
58 budgeting and on other challenges our town faces.

59 Nell has a calm, steady presence and an attention to
60 detail that shows up in the way they engage in Selectboard
61 meetings. Their comments have positively influenced the
62 direction of Selectboard conversations and decisions. I think it's
63 time we gave them an actual seat at the table.

64 I also have been extremely dismayed at the uncivility
65 with which some of the Selectboard meetings have been
66 conducted. I deeply appreciate both Isaac and Nell for their
67 ability to always speak diplomatically and respectfully even when
68 discussions on the board become very challenging.

69 I hope that by re-electing Isaac and adding Nell to our
70 Selectboard, we can move forward as a town with dignity,
71 thoughtfulness, and a deep understanding of what Brattleboro
72 needs to thrive.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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