

—Slug:.....COMM-0854.opin.candid.ellis-thurber
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—For section.....Voices/Candidate Statement
—Format.....Opinions
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43197



Notes from editor (not for publication):

Hi, Amanda — I tweaked a little at the end, where the shift from first person to third person didn't quite work. I changed a little bit of the structure in the paragraph beginning at line 29. Please let me know if I got anything wrong. Thanks so much, Jeff



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Amanda Ellis-Thurber, Brattleboro Selectboard

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 'Selectboard leadership that is willing to engage in
3 dialogue to address financial dysfunction is essential'

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 WHY AM I running for the three-year seat on the
6 Selectboard? Why now?

7 I see the next three years as critical. Leadership is
8 critical. I have a proven track record.

9 Through my work on the Selectboard, I have made efforts
10 to make Brattleboro more affordable. I advocate and take risks to
11 vote to lower residential tax rates. Financial health is a major
12 concern for Brattleboro — I stand committed to sound financial
13 planning. I would like to change our path forward by
14 demonstrating civility and respect.

15 Running a small farm business, I deeply understand that
16 we cannot spend money that we don't have. And in the present
17 moment, Selectboard leadership that is willing to engage in
18 dialogue to address financial dysfunction is essential.

19 * * *

20 I VALUE honesty, integrity, and mentorship. I am
21 welcoming, courageous, and a creative problem solver. I have
22 demonstrated this through my work on the farm, growing food for
23 the community, contributing weekly to charitable food initiatives
24 and school gardens, teaching farm-based education, and
25 volunteering for the community in a diversity of areas, including
26 youth sports, leaf collection, adaptive sports, and mental-health
27 counseling.

28 I am fully committed to everyone in the community,
29 seeing potential and possibility in all. I can think out of the box. I
30 voted to save the Hinsdale Bridge Project. I've worked with
31 individuals to obtain recovery and self-sufficiency in my work as
32 a mental health counselor and currently through my volunteer
33 work in our emergency winter shelter. I engage on the ground,
34 and I do not wait for secondhand views.

35 I collaborate with all members. I am committed to the
36 enrichment of the fabric of our community. I am focused on
37 revitalization of our downtown, supporting our employers, and
38 bringing in new businesses that can bring jobs and get young
39 people started on strong career paths.

40 * * *

41 THE STATE is not going to save us. You can let me help
42 you, help us and, more importantly, help Brattleboro with your
43 vote for me — and for future prosperity and peace — on Tuesday,

44 March 3. You can vote early at the Town Clerk's Office in the
45 Brattleboro Municipal Center, and by absentee ballot.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

46 **AMANDA ELLIS-THURBER**, who is completing a one-
47 year term on the Brattleboro Selectboard, is a candidate for a
48 three-year seat in the annual elections on Tuesday, March 3. She
49 lives in District 7, where she farms with her family.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

51

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

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####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

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####END LOGLINE####