

—Slug:.....COMM-0854.opin.letter.010_carter
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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format..... LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline..... Guilford
—Article Number:..... 43150



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 'Personal targeting, not a professional critique'

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2

####END SUBHED####

3 TEXT BODY:

RE: "Mayo, Evans-Frantz, and Thurber: profiles in civility"

[Letters, Feb. 18]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 Peter Elwell just wrote the kind of commentary he would
5 never have wanted to read about himself when he worked for
6 Brattleboro.

7 He asks voters to value civility, collaboration, and
8 respectful governance. Yet when he turned to Elizabeth
9 McLoughlin, that tone disappeared.

10 The other candidates were evaluated in terms of
11 governance, their commitment to process, and their public
12 record. Ms. McLoughlin was described in personal terms —
13 demeaning, bullying, dysfunction, and divisiveness. That is
14 personal targeting, not a professional critique. It is not Vermont’s
15 way, and after his years of service to the town of Brattleboro, he
16 should know that.

17 In Vermont, we take politics seriously. We debate policy.
18 We examine records. We hold elected officials accountable for
19 votes and outcomes. What we do not do is single out one
20 neighbor for personal condemnation while treating others
21 through a professional lens.

22 If there has been dysfunction on the Selectboard, it
23 belongs to all five members. The board governs collectively.
24 Budgets are passed by majority vote. Meeting tone is shaped by
25 everyone at the table. To attribute institutional problems to one
26 person while praising others who served during the same period
27 ignores how municipal governance actually works.

28 I do not know Elizabeth McLoughlin well. I have met her
29 once. This is not an endorsement. I live in Guilford and can’t vote
30 in this race. This is about standards — standards I believe Mr.
31 Elwell did not meet. If he is going to speak about collaboration
32 and community, the tone of his public commentary should reflect
33 those values.

34 In Vermont, we live with one another long after the
35 election is over. Our public discourse should reflect that.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

36

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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LINKS:

38

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VIDEO:

39

####BEGIN VIDEO####

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

40

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

####END LOGLINE####