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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43176



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Time for a break?

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2

####END SUBHED####

3 TEXT BODY:

RE: "I won't be silenced. Brattleboro's future is on the line." [Response, Feb. 18]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 Brattleboro Selectboard Chair Elizabeth McLoughlin's
5 primary intent with this commentary seemed to be to attack Peter
6 Elwell, in response to his letter criticizing her performance and
7 track record.

8 I do not find such a spat, and such a public one at that,
9 to be helpful to the town. I also, however, hope to be fair in my
10 assessments.

11 Has Elizabeth done some good things for Brattleboro?
12 Yes, I think she has, and for some time now. Are the skills she
13 possesses useful in her Selectboard position? Yes, I think they are.

14 What I feel uncomfortable with, however, is the attitude
15 that Elizabeth sometimes exhibits. In her third-to-last paragraph,
16 she states, "I will not allow Brattleboro [...]," as if Brattleboro
17 were hers to "allow," her fiefdom to rule over. That attitude — too
18 self-important, in my opinion — is what I think undercuts her
19 effectiveness and turns some people off.

20 We saw that exhibited in her recent push to pursue a
21 zoning change that our very capable Planning Commission —
22 that should by all logic have first been invited to weigh in on and
23 recommend in regards to — was shunted aside on.

24 I have also heard Elizabeth bring up her experience as a
25 professional planner way too often. Is that meant to imply that
26 she is automatically the superior person in the room? That may
27 not be what she intends, but it can come off that way.

28 Perhaps it is time Elizabeth took a break. Perhaps she
29 should come back at some future point, after rethinking the
30 appropriate role of a public servant. Her capabilities have been
31 and can still be very useful to the town, but it helps to be able to
32 work with everyone else in the room.

33 I will personally be voting for Amanda Ellis-Thurber for
34 the three-year seat in the coming election.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

35

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

36

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LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

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####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

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####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

39

####END LOGLINE####