

—Slug:.....COMM-0854.opin.letter.b00_shriner_warren
—Contributor.....Steve Shriner and Janice Warren
—Contributor email.....jwarren5035@gmail.com
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special 2
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43149



Notes from editor (not for publication):

Line 56: The original text didn't make clear Liz's role. Did I edit this correctly?



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 McLoughlin: the big picture, process, and complexities
2 of town governance

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Brattleboro faces no shortage of challenges. Our
6 municipal-budget-to-population ratio puts us among the highest
7 in the state. As a hub town to smaller surrounding towns, we
8 shoulder burdens beyond our own.

9 Brattleboro suffers from statewide and nationwide
10 challenges: rising homelessness; housing and affordability issues;
11 the effects of the motel program and its post-pandemic wind-

12 down, federal funding losses and threats; downtown safety
13 challenges, which have also negatively affected local businesses;
14 and an aging population.

15 Addressing these challenges and community needs
16 requires thoughtful, pragmatic, capable, and balanced
17 leadership. We believe Liz McLoughlin exemplifies this
18 leadership, and we are voting for her for the three-year
19 Selectboard position. With her professional and volunteer
20 experience, she understands the big picture, process, and
21 complexities of town governance.

22 We've known Liz for most of the 19 years she and her
23 family have lived in town. We appreciate her quick wit and
24 frankness. She is passionate about this community, having
25 volunteered for the Groundworks Empty Bowls dinner and served
26 on the Drop in Center board and the Brattleboro Planning
27 Commission.

28 As a Selectboard member for seven years, Liz has
29 worked with four town managers and a variety of board members
30 to develop budgets and address challenging issues. She has taken
31 time to learn about the workings of each town department and
32 their challenges.

33 Her career in urban planning has been an incredible
34 asset to the town. She recently negotiated with the state for a
35 reduction in the cost of the Western Avenue bridge project when
36 she felt it was overengineered, reducing the town's share by
37 \$750,000.

38 As a current board member, Liz has not been afraid to
39 advocate for tough decisions that balance Brattleboro's needs
40 with our ability to afford them. Among her accomplishments and
41 priorities:

42 • Support for pay-as-you-throw (PAYT): She recently
43 worked with her colleagues on the Selectboard to modify
44 planned pricing, implementing modest increases that balanced
45 affordability, environmental and budgetary sustainability, and
46 public health.

47 • Focus on public safety through her leadership of the
48 Downtown Safety Plan: Last fall, after listening to the public's
49 demands for immediate action, Liz worked with fellow board
50 members to take the unusual step of implementing the plan they
51 requested from the police chief without funding, asking
52 Representative Town Meeting to retroactively approve the needed
53 funds.

54 Going above and beyond her role on the Selectboard,
55 she also initiated the grant process for embedding mental health
56 workers from HCRS into the police department.

57 • Reform of the state's motel program: Liz, working with
58 our town manager, helped the town reduce its disproportionate
59 usage of state vouchers from 19% to 10%. Brattleboro represents
60 just 2% of the state's population.

61 • Collaboration with the Legislature for state aid and
62 with other community constituents to address affordability.

63 Liz is a leader who listens to constituents, solves
64 problems, and has the fortitude to do the right thing even when
65 facing minority disagreement. She has proven her willingness to
66 rationally and efficiently work through those differences for the
67 benefit of our community.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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####BEGIN LOGLINE####

####END LOGLINE####