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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

Nice job, G.



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Ellis-Thurber takes seat on Selectboard, ousting  
2 McLoughlin

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3 Evans-Frantz stays on board; newcomer Mayo will join  
4 the board

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 Incumbent Selectboard Chair Elizabeth McLoughlin has  
7 been ousted by current board colleague, Amanda Ellis-Thurber,  
8 who is completing her first one-year term, for a three-year seat on  
9 the Selectboard.

10 In a second race in the March 3 annual elections,  
11 incumbent first-year board member Isaac Evans-Frantz retained

12 his seat for another term and will be joined by newcomer Eleanor  
13 “Nell” Mayo.

14 In the first race, Ellis-Thurber received 1,556 votes,  
15 McLoughlin received 705, and newcomer Ken Fay — who  
16 dropped out of the race March 1 — received 69, according to the  
17 unofficial results issued Tuesday night after polls closed.

18 In the race for two one-year seats, Evans-Frantz received  
19 1,462 votes and Mayo, 1,255.

20 Also in the race were newcomers Deena Chadwick (817  
21 votes), Randall “Randy” Blodgett (592 votes), and William “Bill”  
22 Harvey (250 votes).

23 Throughout election season, sides were drawn distinctly,  
24 pitting McLoughlin and Ellis-Thurber against each other — not so  
25 much by the candidates themselves as by many of their  
26 supporters.

27 Tuesday, however, in the snow outside the American  
28 Legion on Linden Street where ballots were cast, they apparently  
29 shared some pizza and camaraderie.

30 “The Brattleboro voters have spoken,” said McLoughlin  
31 of the results. “I wish all the winning candidates the very best in  
32 their service to the town of Brattleboro.”

33 In thanking the community, Ellis-Thurber thanked fellow  
34 candidates for “determination and hard work” and gave special  
35 thanks to McLoughlin “for her years of service.”

36 “We have a lot of work to do Brattleboro,” Ellis-Thurber  
37 said. “I am optimistic for our town’s future. It will take all of us to  
38 get Brattleboro into a balance of affordability, growth and respect,  
39 so let’s get to work.”

40 Fay said he dropped out of the race after talking with  
41 “folks more versed in local politics than I am.”

42 “I’ve come to the conclusion that I don’t see a path to  
43 victory. I did not arrive at this decision lightly. Although this may  
44 disappoint some people who have already voted for me, I am  
45 doing this so that more people who have considered voting for  
46 me aren’t disappointed with the Election Day results,” Fay said.

47 He also urged his supporters to redirect their support to  
48 Ellis-Thurber. “Amanda has served her freshman term by  
49 willingness to listen, and thinking creatively,” he said.

50 Calling service on the board “an honor,” Evans-Frantz  
51 said he’s grateful to voters “who have entrusted me with another  
52 year of Selectboard service, and I congratulate everyone who was  
53 elected and re-elected this evening.”

54 “I want to thank the Brattleboro residents who opened  
55 their doors, talked with me, and shared their hopes and concerns  
56 during this campaign,” he said. “I am particularly grateful to  
57 everyone who supported our campaign with phone calls, letters,  
58 yard signs, and walks through our neighborhoods.”

59 He added that the voters “have demonstrated they share  
60 our vision for a town that is affordable, responsible in its  
61 budgeting, and compassionate toward all.”

62 Pledging to work “with all Brattleboro residents — no  
63 matter who they supported during the campaign — for a better  
64 Brattleboro,” Evans-Frantz said he would “continue to work to  
65 ensure we hear all perspectives, and especially those of the  
66 people most affected by our decisions.”

67 “In these uncertain and difficult times, it can be easy to  
68 turn our backs on one another,” he said. “We do not have to do  
69 that.”

70 Mayo also thanked voters, calling her victory “a great  
71 responsibility and one I do not take lightly.”

72 “We have a great amount of work ahead of us,  
73 addressing budgeting concerns, supporting our town’s growth  
74 and our residents’ needs,” she said. “I am proud and heartened  
75 by the vast number of dedicated people who share this pursuit  
76 and look forward to continuing this work on the board and across  
77 our community.”

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# 'I don't see this as a loss'

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Chadwick, thanking those who voted for her, also said

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her candidacy helped her grow as a person after "so many people

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saw something in me that I didn't yet see in myself."

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"Even though I did not win, I don't see this as a loss," she

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said. "What I've learned from our community through this

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campaign has forever changed my perspective on public service,

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on our town employees, and on Brattleboro as a whole."

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She expressed her appreciation for "the opportunity to

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talk with many different people and hear their stories."

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"I will continue to stay involved, to speak up, and to

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work for the future of our community," she said, and urged

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residents to "stay engaged, attend meetings, talk with your

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neighbors, and support those who step up to serve."

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"As an independent, I believe we all share the same

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fundamental vision for this town, even if we have different ideas

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about how to reach it," Chadwick said.

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Blodgett encouraged collaboration and support.

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"Thank you to everyone that voted for me," he said. "I

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appreciate your support and I would ask that we all work

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together to support the new board to do the work of the town

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during the next year."

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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