

December 21, 2020

Dear Valerie,

I'm writing to introduce myself and share with you, my interest in joining the Bristol Planning Commission. I moved from So. Starksboro to Bristol in 2013, first as a renter and then in 2014, bought Donald and Brenda Lathrop's house on Church Street.

Even while living in South Starksboro, Bristol was an extension of life up on the hill. It has been "my town" for over 25 years, since 1994 when I moved to Addison County. I have been involved in the town as a long-time volunteer and Board member at Art on Main for almost 10 years, which has connected me with the business side of town.

I recently stepped off the Board at Art on Main to help manage it during Covid. Business is slowing down, so I am taking a break for the winter. I will decide in the summer what role I want to play there.

That opening allows me to explore a different way to be involved in my town, and my interest was sparked when I saw the post in Front Porch Forum about the Planning Commission. I'm aware of some of the "hot topics" in town around schools, housing, and our aging population.

I'm excited about the work that Porter Knight has done to create the Bristol Nature Trail. I'm very interested in the possibility of a solar array at the old dump site. I love seeing families with their small children playing at the "new" playground. We have a lot of energetic and creative people who have the leadership capabilities to bring vibrancy to Bristol. I want to keep Bristol growing in positive ways, while maintaining what people love about the town: our sense of community, the small town feel, the beauty of the town and the preservation of Bristol's vibrancy.

I will tune in to the SelectBoard Meeting tonight, to listen in and meet members of the Planning Commission. You are also welcome to refer questions to Katie Raycroft-Myer, who is a friend.

Sincerely,
Catherine Willson