

Bristol Town Administrator

From: John Moyers <moyersvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 1:29 AM
To: Bristol Town Administrator
Subject: Planning Commission appointment

To the Bristol Selectboard and Town Administrator,

I'm writing to ask you to consider me for an appointment to the Bristol Planning Commission.

For the last year or so, I've sat on the Development Review Board and tried my best to be a constructive participant. The work load has been easily manageable and I don't think an additional commitment to the PC would be any problem on my end. I have the time.

While I haven't been a regular observer of PC meetings recently, its policy level work has always been of interest. For many years, as you may recall, I was deeply engaged in planning and zoning issues as a member of the public — a different role than that of sitting in meetings at the board table, but one no less demanding or educational.

In those years, I took an active (if outsider) role in two rewritings of the Town Plan; a revision of the zoning bylaws; a successful referendum that gave Bristol residents the vote on proposed changes to our plan and bylaws (as opposed to the Selectboard only having that power — nothing personal!); and a town-wide survey of residents on their views of Bristol's future and the kind of growth they want and don't want.

All of that was in the context of an effort by many townspeople to prevent a massive new gravel pit proposed in the heart of town, just across the river from Main Street. Those of us who opposed the pit got a real education in zoning and planning — we attended a lot of PC and ZBA meetings and hearings between 2003 and 2015. Early on, I personally knocked on almost every door in the village (twice through in two years, actually), engaging in dozens, maybe hundreds, of one-on-one conversations. More than anything, those conversations informed my views and provided inspiration and direction. It was a long process, but the Supreme Court of Vermont ultimately ruled in our favor, validating our original challenges to the project.

I learned a lot over those years: how hard it is to protect and encourage the things that make Bristol such a special place; how doing so means paying close attention to the Town Plan and zoning regulations that define and implement the vision Bristol residents have for our town. These documents shape the inevitable growth, and they also give townspeople the tools they need to have a say in that growth as it happens, and both purposes are equally important.

One of the central goals of Bristol's Town Plan — that we should have at the heart of our community a thriving and welcoming downtown, full of homes and small businesses side by side — is something I'm committed to. I've made my home right downtown for two decades and literally made it my business to contribute to that vision in bricks and mortar, redeveloping six downtown buildings since 2000 and managing them as residential and commercial rentals.

This means I've had practical experience with the planning and zoning process as an applicant, too, seeking and receiving permits. I've been through the grinder. I've seen how it works (and sometimes doesn't).

So, all that has given me a good working knowledge of planning and zoning, and I'm confident that, if appointed, I'd get up to speed quickly on the PC's current business.

I'd welcome the chance to serve. Happy to come in and answer your questions, if that's helpful.

Sincerely,

John Moyers

23 Main Street

moyersvt@gmail.com

802-989-3996