

It is my joy to nominate Margot Fleischman for a second 3-year term as Selectman. I have known Margot for almost all of the 10 years she has lived in Bedford. She has been a colleague on committees and board, we worked together for the same organization for 7 years, we served together as Selectmen for 1 year, and I am pleased to also know her as a friend.

She jumped right into public service to Bedford almost from the first day she moved here. She has served on the Sidewalk Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, Community Preservation Committee, Energy Task Force, Planning Board and Selectman. All of this has given her a broad perspective and a solid foundation in the character and needs of the town.

She is dedicated, intelligent and conscientious in her public service. Three years ago, after 2 terms as a Planning Board member, she was elected to her first term as a Selectman and addressed the job with energy and enthusiasm. She spent countless hours delving into the financial model to expand her understanding of how town finances work.

She promoted the creation of an Economic Development Coordinator position to focus on renewing our commercial and industrial base to reduce tax burden on residents; she is working to make Bedford an attractive place for businesses that meet the needs of residents, including revising alcohol policy to attract more restaurants.

She is participating in regional transportation planning through the Middlesex 3 Economic Development Coalition's transportation subcommittee; she proposed a Taxi Voucher program for Seniors; and is working to increase transportation options for commuters, seniors and young people.

Margot has focused effort on creating a more walkable/bikeable community, and improving sidewalk network and bike infrastructure; working collaboratively with Department of Public Works, the Bedford Police Department and the schools to encourage kids to be more active through the Safe Routes to School program. She is concerned about "mansionization", the loss of smaller housing stock, the lack of

"downsizing" opportunities for seniors; and is working to promote creative solutions, including redevelopment of Coast Guard housing.

In her roll as Selectman she serves Bedford well – and this is part of the reason I stand before you to nominate her. But there is one other trait that is absolutely necessary to be a good Selectman and Margot has it. Margot loves living in Bedford and loves being Selectman. She is committed to serving Bedford and is accessible and responsive to the residents of Bedford. These are the most important qualifications of all.

For all of these reasons, please join me in approving Margot Fleischman as a caucus nominee and in voting for her on March 14.