

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

Caroline Fedele – Candidate for Selectman

Incumbent and Caucus Nominee



Events:

No events scheduled

Contact information:

781-367-1057

Caroline.fedele@gmail.com

[Caroline's Facebook page](#)

Candidate Q&A - February 18, 2016

What major challenge do you expect to face during the next 3 years?

A major challenge that we have been facing is our need for more space in our Police and Fire Departments. Both buildings were last renovated/constructed in the late 1990s with solutions that were meant to satisfy most of their needs for 10-20 years. As we near the 20 year mark, both Departments are desperately in need of space to continue to safely support the Town. Recent space needs studies, performed by outside architects, strongly support both projects and the Selectmen have given support to the overdue need for more space as well as planning for future growth for the next 20 years. Now the work begins to determine the specifics of where and when and, of course, how best to fund these very necessary projects.

For BPD, based on the analysis of the architects on the space needs and evaluation of the existing facility, it was their recommendation that the Town consider renovation and expansion of the existing facility. The analysis confirmed that in order to meet current needs, more space is required, i.e. roll call, report writing areas, locker rooms, evidence processing, and storage to name a few. The Police Department has grown by almost 20% over the past 20 years and the building itself has far reached capacity. The study also looked at the future needs which would require far more intervention. The Department serves a population

requiring a full complement of services including; Patrol, Investigation, Traffic, Communications, Records and Community Relations. In 2016, the Police continue to see a steady increase in total calls for service. These specific needs put direct pressures on the space available within the current facility. Policing in the 21st century has become more sophisticated, an updated facility is required to meet these challenges as we move forward.

The BFD is in a similar situation in that the Department was built over 60 years ago and the most recent renovation was completed in 1998. Since 1998, the Fire Department has added 9 personnel which include one training officer and eight firefighters. Between 1999-2010, they have added three vehicles and two trailers to the fleet. The diversity and quantity of emergencies have significantly increased. They have enhanced their services to keep up with the demand but the apparatus bay is too small and the cramped space impacts their ability to safely respond in a timely manner. The building itself sits on a site that is too small. One clear example of this is how the bay in back has emergency vehicles exiting into a small parking lot and out a shared driveway. The operations have also significantly increased. Fire prevention is issuing three times the amount of flammable permits than 20 years ago and they now have two record management systems - one for fire and one for EMS. For BFD, the consultants are recommending a change in location because of the existing lack of space. The further challenge will be finding a site that is centrally located to continue to serve every neighborhood in Town with acceptable response times.

As the Town continues to grow larger our public safety entities must expand to support this new growth and will absolutely be a challenge that the Town has to deal with in the next few years. Please keep this in mind as you begin to hear more about these needs and support the outstanding work of our BPD and BFD as they try to address their current needs and plan for the future.

How do you rate the value of expanded transportation options within Bedford?

Exploring options to expand our transportation choices is absolutely one of my top priorities and has been for some time. Our current BLT service is wonderful but is limited in operational hours (9am-3pm) and in dispatch services (8am-9am). We are lucky in Bedford to have almost 25% of our residents that are 60+ and many of our Seniors want to age-in-place. We need to have transportation options to assist with mobility needs and safe ways to get to the food store or an appointment. It is very important to me to focus on these needs now.

In addition to the need for more transportation options for our Seniors, a recent survey of residents showed a high level of interest (73% support on the National Citizen's Survey) in

providing more transit for getting around town. In addition, our Healthy Bedford questionnaire showed great interest in expanding transportation choices into the late afternoon hours.

The Selectmen, Planning Board, Transportation Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Board of Health, Youth and Family Services, Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Director of the Bedford Housing Authority all have expressed support for beginning an Expanded Local Transit Pilot Program later this year.

Article 21 on the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant proposes to appropriate funds to expand the Town's local transit services as a pilot initiative in order to ascertain the demand for such a service. The pilot would run from September 2016 – June 2018 from 12pm – 6pm weekdays to primarily be an on-demand service with a few fixed routes coordinated through a dispatch service. The goal is to offer afternoon transportation options and develop a clear picture of where people need to go and when they need to travel, with the goal of developing data-driven, more cost-efficient fixed route service in the future. Target users could be Seniors with needs not currently being met by the BLT, Bedford Housing Authority residents and possibly school aged children with after-school transportation needs. Some possible fixed routes could be a Thursday afternoon run between Ashby Place and the Community Dinner at the food pantry. The service also could have a weekly run from the COA to Lahey Clinic and/or Emerson Hospital or bring back the weekly run to the Burlington Mall.

The added value from using a professional transportation provider for this pilot program goes above and beyond providing actual transportation services. The provider will conduct data collection and analysis (both rides taken and those that could not be accommodated), expanded dispatch hours (approx. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm instead of 8:00-9:00 am daily), web-based ride scheduling, GPS/WiFi enabled vehicles with real-time tracking/app, dynamic scheduling with the flexibility to tweak service during the pilot program as data shows more accurate needs.

I hope after reading this information, you also rate the value of expanding our transportation options in Town as high as I do. If so, please come to Town Meeting to support this Article 21. Hope to see you there!

2016 Citizen's Caucus Statement

Before I begin, on a snowy night like this, I am reminded to appreciate that our DPW is second to none. No doubt, our safe travels home will be because of their outstanding work.

My name is Caroline Fedele and I am a lifelong Bedford resident. I was a student at Lane School, JGMS and BHS. I grew up watching my parents, Lou and Bobbie Ennis, enjoy and give back to this community. I attended Ithaca College and moved back to Bedford afterwards where I met and married another Bedford native, Rich Fedele. We are happy to be raising our family here in the place that we've always called home. After our work days, we coach and volunteer. I love Bedford - I know you all do too. It is this passion and community that makes tonight and our town in general, so special.

For my professional background, I have been a dedicated and loyal employee for over 20 years beginning my career in Sales and developing into Management. Just over a year ago, I made the personal decision to shift my career path towards something more rewarding and joined the American Red Cross. I wanted to directly impact people in need and be able to help others. I take great pride in knowing that my work ethic, leadership, dedication and care and concern for others have been the primary reason for my professional success.

Over the past decade, I have served our town in a variety of volunteer roles. At the beginning, I focused on our children's activities such as coaching sports and being on the PTO. Over time, I joined the Recreation Commission and became Chairman of Springs Brook Park Committee. Saying yes to new opportunities to tackle a problem or explore an idea is exactly what I enjoy doing and hope to continue to do for many decades to come.

All of that led me to stand in front of you 3 years ago at the Town Caucus in 2013. Wow, 3 years went by so fast...

In my first term, I listened and learned and I am proud of the efforts that Bedford has taken to keep our town a positive place to live and work. I am thankful for the work of elected officials, committee members, volunteers and staff and their progress to collaborate and work toward common goals. Our priorities have remained strong in the safety of our citizens, supporting our local businesses and strengthening our community to be welcoming to all. We are continuing to work towards increasing our commercial tax base to allow for some tax relief to our residents. Our efforts in capital planning will help prepare the town to maintain our infrastructure and tackle space needs in our municipal buildings. We need to make thoughtful decisions about how best to support the future of our town's great assets like Fawn Lake, Springs Brook Park and our Fields. We support Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, a future pilot program to expand transportation to our residents and we are exploring ways to conserve energy and protect our planet.

Throughout all of this, we continue to balance our town's character while being open to progress, weighing our wants and needs against our resources and leading Bedford through important decisions about the kind of town we will be.

I promise to continue to be transparent, available and responsive. I believe I have served the town well and I am so thankful for the opportunity that you have given me to represent you. I will be honored for the chance to continue this great work for another three years.

I very respectfully ask for your vote on March 12th.

[Click here to read Caroline Fedele's candidate statement in The Bedford Citizen](#)