



ELECTION ~ 2017

JACINDA M. 'CINDY' BARBEHENN

CAUCUS CANDIDATE FOR A 3-YEAR TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD



Contact Information

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Candidate Statement

My family and I moved to Bedford 12 years ago, from Chicago, Illinois. We located in Bedford to minimize commutes to work, but in a short time grew to love everything about it. Having never lived in New England, we didn't know what to expect, but between discovering the town's trail system, the wonderful schools, going to our first town meeting and learning about the direct/participatory form of government, we were sold. After we outgrew our first home in Bedford, we chose to buy again and stay in Bedford because of the people and the community that the town fosters.

I've always liked the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" and after having raised two of our own here in Bedford, I am a huge believer as well. I feel it's now my turn to give back to the community that has done so much for us and, given my background and my passions in the area, I feel that the planning board is the place where I can contribute the most.

I have undergraduate and graduate degrees in geography, with a focus on economic geography and geographic information systems (GIS). I worked as a transportation analyst for the Chicago Area Transportation Study, an organization analogous to Boston's MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council),

helping suburban communities, like Bedford, deal with congestion issues caused by growth on the regional level. I was also a principal investigator for the Construction Engineering Research Lab of the Army Corps of Engineers, where I helped develop GIS-based software that forecasted and analyzed the economic and demographic consequences of business location decision making. Although it could be applied to any business location or exit, the intended use of the software was to predict consequences to communities near military bases that were being impacted by the Base Realignment and Closure Process (BRAC).

I also have a keen interest in urban planning, community place making, public transit and bike/walkability. I have stayed current on the literature in these areas and how communities, both around the country and the world, are implementing programs in these areas that address the growth issues that we face.

This is my first venture as an elected official, but I look forward to serving all of the citizens of Bedford, promoting and working on projects that maintain and improve our town's quality of life.