



ELECTION ~ 2017

TIMOTHY K. GRAY, JR.

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



Contact Information

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Candidate Statement

I'm Tim Gray, from 57 Fletcher Road, and I'd like your vote for Planning Board.

I've lived in Bedford for eight years but feel as if I've been here longer because my spouse, Mary Ellen Carter, grew up here, and her mom, Irma, and brother Jim live here, too. Thanks to the Carters, I have a deeper understanding of the town and its history than the typical newbie.

I'm a journalist by trade, a writer and editor. These days, I freelance for a variety of outlets, including *The New York Times*, and I've worked for newspapers and magazines up and down the East Coast. My beat, since graduating from college in 1991, has been business and finance. I've thus had the chance to delve into many of the issues that confront the Planning Board, such as land use and zoning, real-estate development, the interplay of public and private needs and the unintended consequences of ill-considered regulations.

Journalism also has taught me how to listen. I'm not a natural listener, but to succeed in journalism, you must give others your ears. You have to draw people out and afford what they're saying full, fair-minded consideration. That kind of listening strikes me as beneficial on a town board, too. If I'm lucky enough to be elected, I'll be working for the people of Bedford. I'll need to listen closely to my fellow townfolk to

understand what they want our town to be, now and in the future.

We have good planning momentum here, thanks to the work of the current board—and especially to the work of Lisa Mustapich and Sandra Hackman, who are stepping down after more than a decade of service each. Board members have already begun discussing, with citizen input, how updated zoning can help keep the Great Road business district vital. The board will also soon review the redevelopment of Coast Guard property on Pine Hill Road. That will be a complicated undertaking, and board members and the town's planning staff are already pondering how to handle it. I admire that kind of foresight and believe that, thanks to knowledge I gained living in places stretching from a small town in North Carolina to New York City, I can contribute to those deliberations.

My grandfather used to say that everyone's goal, whatever his or her calling, should be to add to the woodpile. We're lucky in Bedford. We already have a hefty woodpile; this is a place where people are willing to pitch in. I view it as a privilege to live in such a place and want to do my part, via the Planning Board, to ensure the pile keeps getting bigger.