

To Whom It May Concern

August 6, 2021

Mary Houle here, applying to fill the recently vacated Select Board seat for the remainder time allotted for that position.

I am a resident with loads of experience in Town Government and Town Affairs. Over about 15 years, I only missed 4 Select board meetings. This attendance record slightly preceded and immediately followed my six years on the Board. I served 4 years as a member, one year as Vice-Chair and a year at the Chairman seat. I sat through some pretty heated issues and conducted myself with respect for each presenting public member, Sel Bd member, and various departments.

When Trudy was in the Water Resource Dept, I made a couple site visits with her at homes where she had no response from letters mailed. No problems ensued from those visits and the issues were favorably resolved. When Wright Preston was the Health Officer, I made a site visit with him on a multi-family unit in the Village which was presented to the THO from a tenant. I also responded individually to certain complaints from both property owners and tenants. Each problem was solved without either party taking legal action.

Important for my consideration for the open slot is, when serving as a SB member some years ago, during the two 3-year terms, I had perfect attendance for the entire time and I came to each meeting fully prepared to conduct the Town business that was presented for consideration and for action for that particular meeting and that particular issue. Coming prepared is of extreme importance.

So, during the tenure I served on the Richmond Select Board, there was unbelievable personnel turnover and plenty of legal issues that presented to the Town. All were resolved reasonably well. At any time, I will gladly meet in Executive Session, absent the Town Manager, to detail what questions you may have about sensitive, and protected Exec Session Select Board meetings.

As I come to meetings related to Town business, I seldom come for a single issue and seldom have my own interest paramount in each discussion. There are a few exceptions to this.

Boards and volunteer service include:

- Select Board
- Board of Civil Authority
- Planning Commission, included a re-write of Town Plan
- Conservation Committee
- CCRPC rep (and the Municipal branch as well)
- CSWD rep
- Tree Committee (founding member)
- Master Gardener, Master Composter, State Certified Hemp Grower, SOUL graduate (Stewardship Of the Urban Landscape)
- Plantings at Town Center (10 years?)

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter,

Mary Houle