



Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

ARPA seat

1 message

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Reply-To: maryhula@aol.com

To: "jarneson@richmondvt.gov" <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>, "jay.furr@richmondvt.org" <jay.furr@richmondvt.org>

Dear Richmond Officials,

I am applying for appointment to the ARPA Committee for the purpose of reviewing and deciding the distribution of the funds for the benefit of the Town. I am available to serve on the Committee regularly and to the end of its term.

Having served the Town in many volunteer capacities, I served as Select Board member for 6 years with a perfect attendance record the entire term. Part of the term included service on the Water and Sewer Commission. For 12 years following my 2 terms, I attended, as a well-informed and prepared participant in meetings, only missing four in those 12 yrs. Currently, post 'pandemic', I am again an active, in person participant in Town Government meetings. For 6 years, I was a member of the Planning Commission during a re-write of the Town Plan.

As one of the founding members of the original Tree Committee, a group of Richmond Residents formed to address the replacement of a grouping of large shade trees that were removed from the Volunteer Green. I called on my knowledge and service of 9 years on the Governor's Council for Urban Tree and Forestry (appointed by Gov Jim Douglas) and my classes from the Stewardship Of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) and Master Gardener as a solid background for that service. During that time, I donated the entire stand of conifers that are in the Volunteer Green which I grew on my farm. I also procured the services of a tree spade company to plant the donated trees. The committee pursued an offer from a tree nursery in an adjacent town that was going out of business. We included the planting with the tree spade company, a group of deciduous trees, to become the new canopy over the play area of the green. All that summer, Tree Committee members and a Rec Dept Volunteer watered the entire plantings and the trees all lived! A success story indeed. Other tree donations of mine include a stand of conifers at the VYCC and the large Holiday Tree at the Round Church.

In my volunteer capacity, I currently plan, plant and care for all the floral plantings around the Town Center. Having noted from the Road Foreman, a budget actually exists for Town Center landscaping, I purchased and planted well over 300 spring bulbs at the Town Center in areas approved by our Road Foreman. I also included the Richmond Free Library with over 100 bulbs for them to plant as well. I tend to/clean areas of the Town Center that are in need of attention, both inside and outside of the building. For a long tenure, I have managed parking at the Vol Green parking area during the 4th of July parade from 8 am to the end of the parade.

I appreciate your sincere consideration and I would appreciate your appointment for the term of the ARPA Committee. This is the town I grew up in and live in today and am still a farmer here. I attended all school in Richmond Elementary School and was a graduate of the 1st class at Mt Mansfield Union High School.

Thank you,

Mary Houle
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