

Emily Mitchell
Candidate statement at Town Caucus
Delivered January 8, 2019

Many thanks to Betsey for that kind introduction. I am excited to put my name forward as a candidate for Bedford Selectman.

I live and work in Bedford, so I'm here all the time. I love our town. Bedford is where I learned to be a grown-up, with a mortgage, kids in the public schools, and a vested interest in everyday things, like when the sidewalks get plowed, and how to get a temporary sign permit for the Advent Fair.

Professionally, I am a literary agent, so I'm well acquainted with conducting negotiations, reading and interpreting contracts, and balancing the needs of many different constituencies. I have a master's degree in education and an MBA, which means I know how to read a budget and how to explain it to other people.

Over the years, I have found many ways to volunteer in Bedford. In 2016 I was elected a Trustee of the Bedford Free Public Library, and have served this past year as that board's chair. I worked locally on the Yes on 3 ballot question campaign this fall, in collaboration with Bedford Embraces Diversity and the Violence Prevention Coalition. I've also worked with Cathy Cordes on a series of PSAs about Town Meeting. I'm the current president of Bedford Patrons of Music Students, the longtime high school youth leader and former warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and a parent coordinator of the JGMS musical.

If you read my candidacy announcement in the *Citizen*, you know that I've been structuring my hopes for the Town around three big ideas: **ACCESSIBILITY, LIVABILITY, and INCLUSIVITY.**

This is not a groundbreaking or radical framework. But it is a useful way to categorize the challenges and opportunities that are likely to come before the Selectmen in the next three years.

An **accessible** Town is one in which people know whom to contact to address problems, feel empowered and able to vote and run for office, and can find Town

information easily and in a language they speak. When we talk about the Town website, the Hanscom noise complaint line, or this caucus itself, we're talking about accessibility.

A **livable** Town is one in which residents can get where they need to go, make a home they love, shop for the things they need, entertain friends and family, and enjoy the outdoors, all without leaving town. When we talk about trails and sidewalks, restaurants and liquor licenses, and green initiatives to support our Net Zero plans, we're talking about livability.

An **inclusive** Town is one in which every resident feels welcome and valued, by neighbors, schools, employees, and officials. When we talk about affordable housing, attracting volunteers to Town committees, and addressing issues of diversity, we're talking about inclusivity.

Bedford doesn't exist in a vacuum. Many of our most pressing questions—such as traffic and economic development—are regional ones. I'm encouraged that Bedford has strong relationships with our neighbors through the Middlesex 3 Coalition and other regional groups, and I look forward to learning more and working with these organizations on issues that affect Bedford and our neighbors.

Bedford is fortunate to have a strong team of elected officials, employees, volunteers, and voters, to tackle whatever comes our way. I know the job of Selectman is challenging—and despite a few opportunities for pomp and circumstance throughout the year, it's not often glamorous. I am not afraid of hard work. I love long-term planning. And I'm comfortable not being liked sometimes. (I have teenagers.)

I believe I have the skills, energy, and temperament to be a good Selectman, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve Bedford in a new way. I ask for your support tonight at caucus, and for your vote on March 9.