



2021
TOWN
ELECTION



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SELECT BOARD

MARGOT FLEISCHMAN
INCUMBENT

INITIAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for reelection to the Bedford Select Board. It has been a privilege to serve in this position since 2012. I would be grateful to be given another term.

For over 15 years, I have worked on policies and projects that have moved the town forward, advancing our goals around housing affordability, the needs of seniors, climate change, economic development, supporting local businesses, strengthening cultural institutions, and, of course, dealing with traffic. I'm proud of the projects I've worked on, including preserving the affordability of Bedford Village, constructing the Davis Road Boardwalk, and restoring open water at Fawn Lake. I take my job seriously because I know that the decisions the Select Board makes have a real impact on the lives of everyone in Bedford.

Since COVID-19 hit, our challenge has been to protect public health while we work on these issues and tackle new ones: growing food insecurity, housing insecurity, mental health needs, and social isolation; vaccine distribution; and ensuring that the town government systems we rely on run smoothly as we emerge from the disruption of the pandemic.

I have felt called to service because it's about helping others, solving problems, and being the change I want to see in the world. The challenges we are facing are unprecedented. My years of experience have prepared me to be of service at a critical time.

I would be honored to continue this work and I respectfully ask for your vote on March 13.

[Click this link to read Margot Fleischman's original candidate announcement on December 21, 2020](#)

QUESTIONS ~ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

In what ways do you think the pandemic will shape the future governance of Bedford?

The pandemic has created challenges and opportunities regarding town governance. Overall, our democratic institutions have held up well: Town Meeting was successful; despite significant logistical hurdles and heat and health concerns, turn-out was robust.

Although our Town Caucus was canceled, we have many contested municipal races. Public participation in remote meetings of boards and committees has increased. Our future governance model, constrained by state law, should to the greatest extent possible retain the elements of increased access and transparency that we have experienced during the pandemic and leverage technology to ensure that these gains are not lost once normalcy returns.

Given the Select Board's responsibility for the town's municipal facilities and infrastructure, how you work with the Planning Board to ensure changes to the municipal infrastructure are integrated into the Planning Board's comprehensive long-term plan?

I'll work with the Planning Board to update and expand the goals in Section 9 of Bedford's 2013 [Comprehensive Plan](#) to include:

Climate Change/Mitigation Net Zero Plan

- Municipal microgrid
- Composting facility

Transportation Infrastructure and Streetscape

- Complete Streets implementation
- Investment in healthy tree canopy
- Expand trails/easements network to enhance bike/ped circulation
- Public/private partnerships to increase transportation choices

Municipal facilities

- New fire station, renovated police station
- Reuse of existing fire station
- Activate public spaces like Narrow Gauge Trail, Fawn Lake for cultural events (artwalks, performances)

Create new goals relative to aging

- Align facilities and services to achieve Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community designations

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- [Erin and Mike Dorr](#)
- [Lisa Freed and Suzanne Koller, Davis Road Boardwalk Volunteer Champions](#)
- [Elizabeth Cowles, Linda Oustinow, and Laura Bullock](#)
- [Sarah Blackman](#)
- [Barbara Perry](#)
- [Ben Thomas](#)