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Mayor Paul Grenier
City of Berlin
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Mayor Grenier,

Please consider me for appointment as an alternate on the City of Berlin Planning Board.

I am a resident of Berlin, having moved here from Plymouth, Massachusetts in 2014, purchasing the former Paul Bisson Dairy Farm. Since becoming a resident, I have sought to involve myself in the life and betterment of Berlin. Presently, I am an active member of a Berlin church where I host its annual Saint Nicholas Festival and co-host its Greek Festival, and I am an active member of the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Androscoggin Valley ATV Club, on behalf of which I participate on the Jericho ATV Festival Committee.

My background includes 35 years as a practicing attorney in Massachusetts where I still hold an active license. My education, in addition to my B.A. and J.D., includes an M.B.A. with concentrations in Health Care Management and Public Administration. Throughout my career as a general practice attorney, I advised small businesses and non-profits, including some health care organizations, and appeared before municipal boards on their behalf.

As an active volunteer in my former hometown, I served as a member of its elected Town Meeting, as its representative on a County Commission, on its Open Space Committee, Master Planning Committee, and successively as a member of the North Plymouth Steering Committee and the Cedarville Steering Committee, each an adjunct to the Plymouth Planning Board. In Plymouth, a town of over 50,000 residents and 100 square miles, there are five local villages, each with its

own steering committee. Every application for a permit in Plymouth must first come before the local steering committee, which does the initial investigation and files a report with the Planning Board.

I have attended a few meetings of both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals here in Berlin in my capacity as a concerned citizen, not as an applicant. If appointed, I would hope to draw upon my education and experience to assist as a resource person in supplying the board with accurate information and appropriate citations on the governing state laws and local ordinances. I do not believe it is the role of the Planning Board, except when specifically requested by the City Manager or Planning Director, to influence policy or to opine on personal preferences regarding applications coming before it. That is the role of the policymakers, not those whose job it is to implement and apply that policy in good faith. I also believe it is paramount that the board protect the rights of all citizens affected to be notified and to be heard, and wherever possible within the constraints of the applicable law, to be given full consideration.

As I suspect you are aware, I am an opinionated and politically involved person. That will not change, and if that is an impediment, you should decline to nominate me. However, my opinions and politics, as those of others, do not belong anywhere in the process of hearing and deliberating on applications brought forward by citizens and developers. Applicants, stakeholders, and affected citizens have a fundamental right to a fair hearing by members of the board, as well as to a neutral and impartial decision in each case, governed only by the policy objectives handed down to the board as formulated with the best interests of Berlin in mind. If appointed, that will be my only objective, and within that framework, I expect to bring an open mind to the table.

Thank you for your consideration. I would consider it an honor to serve my new city.

Sincerely,

Theodore L. Bosen

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