

November 12, 2021

Mayor Grenier & City Council:

My name is Amy Howder-George I am interested in serving on the Berlin Planning Board. After observing the Planning Board as a guest, I concluded that your team is a board of individuals that work well together and have a genuine concern for the city and the shape the city takes under the board's guidance and direction.

My background in local government started at Santa Rosa Junior College as a cabinet member within student government, where I learned about parliamentary procedure. I then moved into community issues and onto the Women's League of Voters, demonstrating a commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy. I advanced my knowledge of community capacity building (CCB) by learning what it looks like to invest my time in a service that focuses on enabling all community members, including the poorest and the most disadvantaged. I assisted with helping people develop skills and competencies to take greater control of their own lives and contribute to inclusive local development. I began to also work within detention centers, recovery centers, homeless shelters as a matriculation technician out of the Santa Rosa Junior College Matriculation Department. My most significant achievement was when I worked on the LWV within the nominating committee and on a study that performed community-wide mapping to understand the delinquent youth and the juvenile justice system. Our goal was to bring resources, answers, solutions and to gain LWV favor to support local policies that ensure that youth receive fair, equitable, and rehabilitative treatment within the Juvenile Justice System in Sonoma County. After an extensive study, my passions moved to policies targeting solutions for recidivism (re-incarceration), restorative justice practices, and rehabilitative strategies. (AB109)

By appointment, I soon served on the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County Office of Education, where we ensure citizens in the community get choices about where and how they will live and work. We surveyed and developed interactive heat maps to provide team members with data visualizations designed to foster learning, discussion, and decision making.

I have had many experiences and now find myself here in Berlin, married and making friends, some that I have found to speak about the planning board as a place to visit and think about investing myself in. After visiting and observing your team, I would like to ask if I may join your group. I felt welcomed and aligned with your members' comments. I am looking for such a team and seat to serve in. I am interested in filling an open alternate member seat for an unexpired term that would go until April 30, 2023.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Amy Howder George

November 16, 2021
Mayor Grenier and City Council
City Hall
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I was informed recently of an open seat on the Berlin planning board, and I would like to offer myself for consideration. I bought a house in Berlin in 2014, while I was working in the Boston area, and moved here full-time in 2017, after taking a remote job. I feel that this community has great potential for economic development and for reinvestment in its buildings, roads, businesses and energy systems.

I have a B. A. in Linguistics from the University of Michigan. For the last 14 years, I've worked in the renewable energy industry, installing, designing and project managing solar and battery projects. I recently started a new job with Simpliphi Power, a lithium-ion battery manufacturer, as an applications engineer.

I would like to be helpful in the city government's efforts to develop and improve Berlin as we move deeper into the 21st century.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Jeffrey Quackenbush
167 Washington St.
Berlin, NH 03570