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# THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

*Submitted by Sandra Hackman, Caucus Nominee and incumbent candidate for Planning Board*



*Sandra Hackman*

*Sandra invites voters to contact her*

*via telephone or email*

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## **CAUCUS STATEMENT**

*[Please note: I did not prepare a speech for the caucus because I did not expect to run, so my remarks were relatively brief. These are slightly modified from a video of the caucus.]*

I am not used to speaking extemporaneously. To be honest, my decision to run for a fifth term on the Planning Board happened only tonight.

That said, I can attest that this is a very exciting time for the Planning Board and for Bedford, and I'm very glad to be running. I don't know if you've had a chance to read the new Comprehensive Plan—if you haven't, I hope you will. In that document, we are calling this an era of redevelopment for Bedford.

Many areas of the town need redevelopment, and the Comprehensive Plan has lots of ideas for how to do so. At the same time, people in the town have come together around the desire to create a tighter community built around more opportunities for walking and biking, and other transportation options. I want to work on those options.

I have been doing some work on local and regional transportation and other concerns as Bedford's representative on the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and also as the Planning Board representative to MAGIC, the MAPC subregion of which Bedford is a member. I have also been attending Healthy Bedford meetings, which is beginning to focus on transportation challenges.

Both the town and the Planning Board have a huge amount of work to do to implement the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Board, especially, has put off revising key zoning bylaws as we worked for two and a half years to craft the new plan. Fortunately, we also hired a great Planning Director two and a half years ago—he's considered one of the best in the state. The Assistant Planner is equally gifted. And Cathy Silvestrone, the administrative assistant, is fabulous. So we have a great staff

and a great board—I love my colleagues. They are all very thoughtful.

I very much appreciate the input of all the members of the ad hoc committee and other residents who came to so many meetings on the Comprehensive Plan. Their work really paid off.

I think we can look forward to an exciting next few years in Bedford. I hope you will consider voting for me for as a caucus nominee, and in the election in March. Thank you.