

October 22, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am Michael Miles. I live at 326 Aiken Rd, Trumansburg, NY 14886. I am submitting my name for consideration for the open councilperson position on the Enfield town board. I do this knowing full well that politics and communication at Town of Enfield meetings can seem like a full-contact sport. It is my hope that I can bring a more even-keeled presence.

This would not be my first time on the Enfield town board. I was appointed to fill out an open position on the town board in 2016. Being a newbie councilperson, it was a learning experience, with a couple mea-culpa moments, but one where I'm glad I got to know other residents of Enfield. I truly enjoyed the conversations I had with people regardless of whether I agreed with them on issues or not.

2016 was the year the great wind farm debate. Every town meeting was vigorously attended by both pro and anti-wind supporters. Coincidentally, I was, the first resident to install a small wind turbine in the town because I firmly believe that we should begin moving to renewable and sustainable energy sources. Despite that, and generally supporting the concept of a wind farm, I found myself at odds with some of the details of the proposed wind farm, which I voiced both in town meetings and directly to stakeholders on both sides.

For me, this gets to an important point of public service: one should be able to listen to input from varying points of view and think clearly and critically. I do not tow an immutable political party-line. In fact, I do not belong to any political party - and have not for most of my adult life. I choose to consider issues individually and on their own merit. I will not be the voice box of political agendas, left or right. To other councilpersons, I may agree with you on one issue and disagree with you on the next. Do not take it personally. We don't have to have unanimous votes on resolutions, but we do have to keep in mind what is in the best interest of the Town of Enfield.

A little about me: I have lived in Enfield for almost 20 years. My wife, Beth, and I raised our two daughters here. They are grown up and live in Maine and South Carolina now. I work in IT at Cornell University, but work remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic. We operate an Airbnb where we welcome visitors to our beautiful Finger Lakes area.

If appointed, I will do my best to represent the Town of Enfield. I hope that, as a town, we can get beyond our acrimonious town meetings and politics.

Sincerely,

Michael Miles
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