

DENNIS BIDWELL

CITY COUNCIL ★ WARD 2

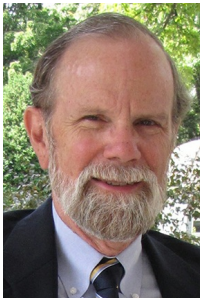
www.dennisbidwellcitycouncil.com

Inauguration Ceremony

December 23, 2015

Along with other City officials I will be sworn in **Monday, January 4 at 4:00 pm at the Northampton Senior Center.**

Please drop by if you can fit it into your schedule.



Holiday Greetings to friends and neighbors,

I want to thank the 527 of you who voted for me for Ward 2 City Councilor. I greatly appreciate this vote of confidence as I gear up to assume office in January. I will be honored to serve as your City Councilor.

I especially want to thank the many of you who helped me on my campaign - making donations, knocking on doors, introducing me to neighbors, displaying lawn signs, distributing literature, inviting me to neighborhood events, organizing house parties, etc. I appreciate the fact that so many of you understood my desire to continue running a campaign even when we knew I would have no opponent. I felt it was important that I meet as many people as possible to hear concerns and recommendations, and to provide Ward 2 residents with opportunities to get to know me and hear what I care about.

I am truly excited about joining the City Council in January and getting to work on the issues that matter to residents of Ward 2 and the rest of the City. I look forward to working with dedicated and thoughtful colleagues on the Council, and to working with our excellent Mayor, David Narkewicz, and the administrative team he has assembled.

Ward 2 Update

Much of my work on the Council will be determined by my committee assignments, which won't become clear until late in January. But in the meantime I am following a number of matters closely:

- I attended a Dec. 8 community meeting where Round Hill residents learned the details of a revised proposal for the use of (formerly) Clarke School buildings on the West side of Round Hill Road.
- Last week I attended a meeting convened by the City's Planning and Sustainability department to discuss the results of a consultant study focused on constraints and opportunities regarding the potential for increased residential development within a mile radius of downtown.
- The proposal for a Downtown Northampton Association, which would work closely with the Chamber of Commerce to assume many of the important responsibilities previously handled by the Business Improvement District, is

very encouraging.

- I have had many conversations with Ward 2 residents holding strong views, pro and con, about the PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) proposal presented by the Mayor and supported by a resolution of the City Council last month. Most people I've spoken with, whether in favor of the proposal or not, are hoping that the program will be implemented with respect and appreciation for the contributions to our quality of life made by the non-profits that have made Northampton their home.
- At a recent meeting of the City's Energy Commission, largely devoted to a report from our State Representative, Peter Kocot, I learned about the state of various legislative proposals regarding lifting the cap on zero net metering and other matters critical to the state's burgeoning solar industry (and the energy sector generally.) Much rides on the outcome of this legislative tussle, including prospects for a solar installation on our own capped landfill.
- I have been following with interest the efforts of a citizen group led by Judith Fine to work with Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School to develop a plan for the Smith Farm Fields (formerly State Hospital lands) that would allow continued but carefully managed shared use of the property, including by dogwalkers, runners and cross country skiers. Access to these fields is very important to many Ward 2 residents.

Happy Holidays

As we move in to the New Year, I look forward to involving myself in these and many other issues.

I encourage you to be in touch with your thoughts and recommendations.

In the meantime,

Happy New Year!
(Hope to see you at First Night!)

Dennis Bidwell

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