

My name is Michael Provencher and I've lived in Waterboro for the past 5 years along with my parents who moved here from Biddeford three years ago and my sister as well who has two boys on the Massabesic School System. I was born and raised in Biddeford with Franco American heritage, graduated from Biddeford High School and attended the University of New England. I have a bachelors degree in Biology, a Masters in Public Health and I'm both a registered respiratory therapist and public school teacher. I should add that I'm a nonunion public school teacher because I happen to think that it does indeed make a difference. I teach high school chemistry at Traip Academy in Kittery. I enjoyed a successful career in healthcare administration but took into consideration all factors and transitioned to teaching. My wife and I reside on Moon Penny lane off of townhouse road, just behind the town hall. My parents and sister relocated to Waterboro for the very same reasons that I did; because we felt that our town, Biddeford, had changed into something that we could no longer recognize. There's no doubt that Biddeford is growing, but was it the type of growth that we wanted? They say bigger is better, well not always.

I've come to love Waterboro, it's people, quaintness and what it has to offer. From its recreation lands that are part of the Land trust to our lakes, river and streams, it is truly something worth protecting. As a member of the planning board, I've been able to understand more about the comprehensive plan and steps that could be taken to make that plan fruition.

Politically, I'm to the right, a fiscal conservative who feels strongly that your money is better spent from your pocket. I like to think that most people live out this way because they are self sufficient, independent and hardworking. This however does not mean that we don't lend a helping hand to those who are struggling and it is imperative that we do so if we want call ourselves a community.

We are at a point in time, with a population of almost eight-eight hundred residents and having one of the largest school districts in the county to which we contribute the majority of pupils that we will have to make tough decisions within the next five years. Let's face it, development is happening both residential and commercial, the population continues to grow and with that the expenses grow as well. Tough decisions will HAVE to be made on town revenue, services and growth. These are all challenges that I look forward to working with everyone on and in that process listening to anyone who wants to share an idea or thought. Hearing someone is NOT the same as listening to someone as the latter requires a sense of devoted attention to the person and their thoughts. Seeking to understand, exchange views and develop consensus is how we move forward at peace and that should be the priority of someone in a leadership position.

Lastly, I see a community who's citizens enjoy their liberty and seek to define their own happiness and I would never stand in the way of that. The pursuits of life, liberty and happiness is made possible through the decisions and choices that we make. We need a town government that is engaged by the public! You should be writing and or calling your selectmen and they should make you feel heard and respected in the process. When you vote, you place your trust in the yays and nays of elected officials. I hope that you can support small government, lowest possible taxes, high property values and services that are targeted towards all members of our community from young to elder.

Respectfully
Mike Provencher