

## Minturn Planning Commission Application, March 14, 2024

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1. How long have you lived in Minturn?

I started renting in Minturn in 2005. I bought a house in 2020.

2. What is your occupation and/or background?

Currently, I am a teacher at Battle Mountain High School. However, during my previous life, I worked in the environmental field. Prior to teaching, I worked for The Nature Conservancy as a Program Manager (eight years). Before that, I worked for the National Park Service (mostly in Grand Teton National Park). After graduating from my masters program, I worked for an environmental consulting firm and collected data for environmental impact assessments, which I also helped write. Teaching was a late-in-life career for me, but in some ways, it was an extension since I taught environmental science. I also taught biology, chemistry, earth science, anatomy/physiology, and health (Denver Public Schools).

3. Are you currently serving on other community groups, boards, or commissions? If yes, please provide the name(s) of the organization(s), and length of time served.

I am currently a member of the Historical Preservation Commission and have been since its genesis in 2022. I am still on the Board of my HOA for my Boulder Condo Association and have been since 1999. I have served as President (2 terms), Secretary, and am now a Board member at large. I am also on the Board of my Minturn HOA and serve as Secretary.

4. What are some of the reasons you wish to serve on the Minturn Planning Commission?

I have lived in Minturn full time since 2015. I have watched some things change, which is natural. Currently, I have some extra time to get involved in my community, and feel that this is a good way to do so, given my background. I have a masters degree in Environmental Management, with an emphasis in wildlife ecology, so I have a solid understanding of the ecology of our area (I conducted my masters thesis work in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem - which is somewhat similar). I also believe that my experience with the Historic Preservation Commission will be valuable in this role.

5. What is your "long range" vision for the Town of Minturn?

If I have to wrap it up in a couple of words, I would use environmental sustainability. I feel that future growth, which also embraces economic viability, is best accomplished in ways that ensure the protection of our natural resources over the long haul. These include water availability and water quality, wildlife, and air quality. The town will grow, and that is in keeping with projected population growth for Colorado. That said, I feel that growth should be smart and in accordance with environmental limits. We live in a beautiful and vibrant town that people are attracted to for these very reasons. While population growth is within my long range vision, as it is an inevitable aspect of

life in Colorado, the Minturn I envision will still be quaint, have a small town feel, manageable traffic, clean air, and the opportunity to catch glimpses of wildlife. It will have a vibrant downtown that attracts tourists and serves residents. A survey conducted a few years ago showed that these values are important to residents, so they need to be incorporated as we grow. Further, as a teacher, I believe strongly in equity and that growth must be done in such a way that is fair to all residents.

6. What are the most important issues currently facing the Town of Minturn?

Right now, I feel that we need to work on our water availability, which is certainly a challenge, given the astronomic costs associated with treatment options. I am grateful to the town council for deeply examining this issue. Additionally, we should strive to maintain economic vitality, which I also feel is being addressed. I am concerned about the wildlife, as I know that our remnant elk herd continues to struggle. As such, I feel that future growth needs to be done in such a way as to conserve and protect fellow species. The potential for wildfires is certainly a concern, as climate change continues to rear its ugly head. Future development will need to be planned accordingly, as we are in the wildland interface. Finally, I feel that the recent lawsuits we have been mired in are damaging to our town, as they usurp our financial resources and staff time. As such, future planning efforts need to consider the threat of potential lawsuits and proactively work to avoid them.

7. Please add any other additional comments that you would like to share.

I would like to see this town, which I love, grow and thrive in a sustainable manner to ensure a vibrant future for all residents, including the wildlife that uses this habitat. I have a masters degree in Environmental Management and have experience formulating policy recommendations for planners regarding the management of natural resources.

On a personal note, I met my husband in Minturn and we got married on the banks of the Eagle River! I would love to be part of the planning process so thank you for your consideration of my application.