

Minturn Planning Commission Application, April 25, 2024

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I am registered to vote in Minturn and I am over 18 years of age

I am a teacher with the Eagle School District and this is my eighth year in this position

I also certify that what I state in this application is true, complete and correct.

Signed: *Tracy C. Andersen* on April 25, 2024.

1.) Tell us briefly about yourself, why you are interested in being appointed and what experience or education would you bring to this Commission or Council?

I am interested in being on the Planning and Zoning Commission for several reasons. One is to help fill the recently vacated position and the second is that I genuinely care about the town and would like to help maintain its charm for future generations.

Currently, I am a teacher at Battle Mountain High School. Before I became a teacher, I worked for The Nature Conservancy as an Environmental Program Manager (eight years). I also worked for the National Park Service for several years (mostly in Grand Teton National Park). Teaching science 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). Presently, I serve on the Historic Preservation Commission, which I enjoy. I do not wish to give up that appointment, so if that is a requirement, then I do not wish to pursue this application. I was told that there are no statues prohibiting someone from filling a vacancy on this commission, and simultaneously serving on another commission. If that is incorrect, then I would prefer to just stay on the HPC for now.

2.) Why do you wish to be appointed/reappointed to this Commission or Council?

I have lived in Minturn full time since 2015 (but I began renting here in 2005) and have watched some things change, which is natural. However, I am concerned with the size of the recent development projects, which may affect the town's personality. I feel that the stakes are high given Minturn's proximity to the National Forest, so development

needs to be carefully and thoughtfully planned in order to maintain the environment as well as the social fabric. 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 good understanding of the ecology of our area (I conducted my masters thesis work in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem - which is similar). I also believe that my experience with the Historic Preservation Commission will be valuable in this role.

3.) Are you aware of the time commitment and do you have the personal time to devote to this Commission or Council?

I am aware that this is a time consuming position and that the packets are very full and very detailed. I understand that the person who fills this role will need to understand the existing codes. I have time at this point in my life to read them and give thoughtful consideration to the issues.

4.) What other Boards have you served on?

As I mentioned, I serve on the Historic Preservation Commission and have since its genesis in 2022. I recently resigned from serving on the Board of my Boulder Condo Association after more than 20 years. Presently, I am on the Board of my Minturn HOA and serve as Secretary.

5.) If appointed, what would you like to accomplish on the Commission or Board while you are involved?

I am interested in making planning and zoning recommendations that will contribute positively to the town while keeping the quaint, small town feel, which I think might be threatened by some of the large developments that are coming to fruition. I would like to ensure that future development is sustainable and environmentally sound. Additionally, I will propose that future development will not only benefit those who stand to gain financially, but will help the entire town and its citizens to continue to enjoy a good quality of life.

6.) What do you believe could be a concern or issue facing this Commission or Council?

Development pressures abound, so I feel that this commission needs to be wise and ensure that future plans are not only economically viable, but are also environmentally

sound and good for the community. 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. The commission needs to consider more than the economic consequences of development, but also how it impacts traffic, air and water quality, wildlife, recreation, noise, and parking. I understand that water availability is a critical issue, but I still believe that we need to be responsible when we consider future development so that the town will not lose its charm nor threaten the amazing natural areas that surround us.

7.) What do you think the Town's responsibility is in overseeing and regulating residential and commercial development?

The town needs to ensure that development is responsible and that it does not negatively impact the resources that we all enjoy, such as scenic views, wildlife, and open space. It is important that the town upholds the existing laws/codes and creates a built environment that is in everyone's best interest, not just the interest of the applicant. That may not be a popular view, so it may be that I am not the ideal candidate. That said, we will be seeing the results of much development over the next few years, so I believe we need to be judicious as we move forward.

Thank you for your consideration of my application.