

Heidi Larsen

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Saratoga, WY 82331

January 27, 2025

Dear Saratoga Town Council,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in filling the vacant seat on the Planning and Zoning board.

As a lifelong resident of Wyoming, I have decades of experience in historic preservation and downtown revitalization.

20 years ago, in Rawlins, I got involved in the downtown revitalization efforts by saving two historic buildings from demolition and purchasing three others that were in dilapidated condition. At that time, the Rawlins downtown was vacant as many of the historic buildings were uninhabitable. I also joined the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) and helped to bring a large public art project to the downtown. We formed the mural committee and had 10 murals painted, by local artists and installed at various locations in the downtown, depicting the rich history of Rawlins. In five years over 20 new business were established in the downtown. In 12 years, the Rawlins DDA applied for a large façade improvement grant that revitalized the entire downtown store fronts and now, 20 years later, Rawlins is considered one of the Wyoming Main Streets top contributing, historic downtowns in WY. I still serve on the DDA board in Rawlins.

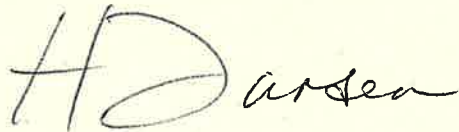
While living in Newcastle, WY I served on the historic preservation board. I helped bring the mural project to Newcastle, where we were able to paint three large murals. My husband and I purchased the historic Antlers Hotel, that was built in 1880 and was boarded up and abandoned for over 30 years. The surrounding commercial properties were in disrepair with many vacancies. We were able to remodel the Antlers into the Jewel of the Downtown, sparking a renewed interest and revitalizing of the downtown. In addition to the murals, we formed a group that brought public art in the form of coal cars, that were filled with flowers celebrating the history of coal mining in the area, to various places in the downtown. Additional flowers and landscaping projects were undertaken to beautify the downtown. Currently Newcastle's downtown is thriving.

While living in Saratoga I have remodeled three homes, built a home with my daughter, and remodeled a historic building in the downtown, where we held art classes and community events. We sold it three years ago and it has been vacant ever since.

In closing I would like to express my sincere interest in serving on the planning and zoning board. I believe that my passion for historic preservation and downtown revitalization would be an asset to Saratoga.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heidi Larsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Larsen' or 'Heidi Larsen', with a stylized, cursive script.