

## Chad Frittenburg Responses

Bridgewater Town Council Candidates Forum  
hosted by South Shore Public Libraries  
September 30, 2020

*Questions submitted by the public; 6 drawn randomly for use during the recorded forum, all to be made available for comment to interested candidates for inclusion alongside forum video.*

- How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process in our town?

I believe one of the best ways I can accomplish this is by simply being out in the community, which, as a classroom teacher, I am every day. I am hearing and seeing concerns daily that affect Lunenburg County and Bridgewater. I also think that I have an open and approachable demeanour, which is a positive attribute for a town councillor. Social media and technology is another tool that I am also very comfortable with, and a great way to collect information, especially during these challenging COVID times.

- If you could change one thing in our zoning code, what would it be and why?

If I could change one thing about the zoning code it would be to take a very careful look into all the restrictions concerning residential development. Our town needs to take a proactive approach in addressing the housing needs. There may be room to explore creative ideas to address this in the comprehensive residential zones. Regardless of where, if our town is going to continue to grow in a healthy and sustainable way this issue must be addressed with a strategic plan.

- Do you think housing affordability is an issue in our city? If yes, what do you plan on doing to improve housing affordability?

Housing affordability is a very important issue Bridgewater. To improve housing affordability a strategic plan must be in place to explore the possible uses of the comprehensive residential zones, where developments are still a possibility. It is also important that municipal government is involved in a great capacity in projects such as this.

- If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?

If not elected, I plan to continue to be engaged with my community through volunteering in a variety of ways. Two committees that speak to me that I plan to become more involved with is energize Bridgewater, and the South Shore Housing Coalition.

- What's the one major issue you plan to address?

Firstly, improving the environmental concerns caused from crumbling wastewater infrastructure is a main issue. Many other town improvements are tied to this. Secondly, the residential concerns must be addressed. The demand for properties in the town of Bridgewater is high, while the availability of quality and affordable housing is low. Living costs have increased resulting in basic daily needs not always being met. I believe municipal government is making positive strides with some of these concerns, for instance the smarter cities challenge and their plan to address energy poverty, but there is much more work to be done and I am excited for the opportunity to be involved.

- How have you already been volunteering or serving in the city?

As a classroom teacher of 20 years I spend every day in the community working with kids and families. I have spent countless hours volunteering my time to coaching youth in a variety of sports, mainly basketball and have served on numerous committees; including various teaching committees, the South Shore Regional Science Fair committee and past president of the South Shore Surf Minor Basketball Association.

- What do you think is going well right now in Bridgewater?

I believe Bridgewater has made some excellent strides when it comes to exploring renewable forms of energy and energy poverty within our town. The energize Bridgewater committee is currently exploring this topic and it looks like there are some very exciting things coming in our towns future. Winning the smarter cities challenge, which comes with significant funding to address energy poverty is a huge step forward for our town.

- Are you a member of a political party? If yes, what benefit or impact does your membership of a political party have for the local community?

I am currently not a member of a political party

- How would you encourage employment and economic development in our area?

I would encourage employment and economic development in the town of Bridgewater by focusing on flexible policy that encourages innovation, skills, and business development. A focus on economic development policies, labour market policies, policies to support entrepreneurship, and education and training policies all have a role to play. Bridgewater must work cooperatively with local groups in addressing these issues, such as the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre, Centre for Entrepreneurship Education Development, etc. It is also

vital to work with local property owners in leasing space for these opportunities to develop. Bridgewater prides itself on being the “main street of the South Shore” and economic growth on our main street is extremely important.

- What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in Bridgewater?

Updating the wastewater infrastructure cannot wait any longer. Many other initiatives are tied to improving this environmental concern, residential and commercial. The river is a focal point for our town; it needs to be a top priority to make the river a safe place where our town can be celebrated through recreation and cultural events. Many other dominoes are depending on improving this issue.

- If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the town any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

I believe a good use for this money would be building upon the recreational opportunities within our town. With Bridgewater continuing to grow, recreational incentives would encourage our community to be engaged, active and healthy. For example the development of the Generations Active Park could be accelerated, and the enhancement of current and addition of new green spaces and public parks.

- How do you feel about the bus service and what do you feel needs to be changed or improved?

I think the bus service is an excellent addition to our town. The only change that I believe would help our residents is to be able to repair breakdowns in a more timely fashion. It is my understanding that the success of this service has led the town to purchase additional buses, which will be wonderful to expect a more reliable service.

- What do you think of the idea to change the name of Cornwallis Street here in Bridgewater? Do you feel it is erasing part of our history or adding to the story of our history?

I fully support the idea to change the name of Cornwallis Street. I also see it as an opportunity to add to our town’s history in a more inclusive, positive way.