

## Sandra Mader 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?**

*The taxpayers elect Council members to make Town decisions on their collective behalf. The Council must serve the community as a whole. There are some decisions that are complex and involve many conflicting interests. In those cases, it's necessary for Council to reach out to gain a good view of perspectives and try to find middle ground.*

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

*That the various strategic plans that are now being funded to be completed in 2023 be fast tracked, especially the sub-division and future road plans. The existing plans were implemented in 2010. A five year planning cycle was missed.*

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

*It's an issue in all densely populated areas. Opening up new land for new housing starts to allow for those who want new homes to move, thereby creating a chain of relocations, leaving the smaller homes at the bottom tier of housing open, is one way to help improve housing affordability.*

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

*I will be a voice that will be strong and clear on the issues that affect the Town the most. I will ensure decisions are made in a timely manner so that progress can be certain and current.*

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

*The strategic plans that are currently being reviewed and written must have their progress open for all to assess and have input on at this stage to avoid delays once brought forward. There should be no surprises so the timelines can be shorter.*

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

*I have been a volunteer almost all my life. Some of the organizations I have volunteered for are:*

- *Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce*
- *South Shore Regional Hospital Auxiliary, Board and Foundation*
- *Home & School and SAC*
- *Lunenburg Community Consignment*
- *Bridgewater Day Care Board*
- *LaHave Manor/Riverview*
- *Big Sisters*
- *Federal and Provincial Political groups*

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

*Bridgewater is obviously a very desirable place to live right now. Many come-from-away people and finding us and deciding to call this area home. We need to capitalize on this momentum and allow it to spur on more growth.*

**- 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?**

*Yes, I have acted filled all executive positions on both federal and provincial political bodies. I was raised in a Liberal home where many dinner conversations were consumed by political debate. In my adult years, I joined the Conservative party as an executive member. I feel it's important to be active in political groups as it's an essential element of our democracy.*

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

*As a Town councillor, I would manage our commercial property tax rates to ensure they are competitive and work positively with businesses to ensure our by-laws and regulations are supportive of commercial endeavors.*

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

*The undeveloped land on the north side of Town needs to have the road, water and sewer capacity to allow for more growth. Also, many of our underground pipes are “vintage” and our Town needs to have a structured upgrade plan for existing services.*

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

*As I said during the debate, as a Town Councillor, I would put the money on the Town’s long term debt.*

**- How do you feel about the bus service and what do you feel needs to be change or improve?**

*I believe the bus service is essential for promoting a Town that discourages two cars in every driveway. In populated areas, parking is an issue, and making it easier to walk and bus to where you need to go is good planning. It could be improved if the service logistics could allow for more flexible scheduling and some private runs at the right price.*

**- 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?**

*While I have not heard that it is offensive to any residents while on my ‘political travels,’ if it were to become an issue, I would support a name change. This view would apply to any of the streets in Town that are offensive and the reasons for being so are reasonable.*