

2023-151

Attn:
Nipun Jain Director of Planning
Nick Cracknell Director of Community & Economic Development
Pascal Rettig, Chairman
Councilor Lennon – Vice Chairperson Disposition Committee
Jennifer Smith Amesbury City Clerk
Mayor Gove

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CITY CLERK

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CITY OF AMESBURY MA

RE: Board Resignation

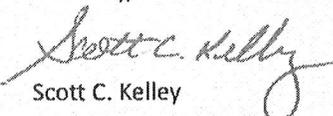
Several years ago, I was approached by a member of the City Council who asked me to help with a shortage of elected officials on the City of Amesbury Planning Board as he felt that I would be a positive addition. Having been someone who has served on committees in my old hometown I was happy to do what I could to help and told the councilor I would be happy to help for as long as I could and for as long as I felt it wasn't impinging on my family or work obligations. I have always felt welcomed by essentially everyone involved and greatly enjoyed my time serving on the boards, up until more recently.

Our positions on the Amesbury Planning Board and Disposition Committee are voluntary positions that we are elected or appointed to AND the time commitment we donate to the City and Citizens of Amesbury is a significant gift. Over the years, like everyone sitting in these positions, I have put in hundreds of hours, gone on numerous site visits, met with and talked to many project applicants/developers – construction company representatives – City Staff and peer consultants. I have asked a multitude of questions to them all and learned a LOT, for which I will forever be thankful having been given the opportunity to do so. Most of all I am thankful to my adopted community of the greater Amesbury area and its citizenry for putting their trust in my ability to offer, what I hope was, insightful and meaningful input to help shape development in Amesbury for the betterment of the community.

Looking back, what I should have also included in my comments to the City Council member who asked me to apply to be a member of the Planning Board way back when, was that I would also stay for as long as I also felt I was treated fairly and respectfully – which I feel I have always done to all who appeared before me for their projects. However, I am not willing to accept disparaging comments from others that I find to be disrespectful or unfair, which I feel I was subjected to some months ago. I did my best to put it aside and forget about it but after having heard that this isn't the first time this individual has done something like this I can't. I'm not willing to work in or for an environment where someone feels free to make unfounded comments about others – especially when made to / about those who are volunteers.

That said, please take this letter as my formal announcement of my resignation from the Amesbury Planning Board as well as the Amesbury Disposition Committee effective immediately. Please know that no member of the Planning Board or any staff for these groups was the cause of this as I consider them all friends and people whom I've enjoyed being around. The majority of the people that serve on these committees (past and present) are people I have truly enjoyed spending time with, learned a lot from and I respect their opinions. Even the times we have disagreed, of which there have been very few, we always treated each other with respect, and I would want them to know that I truly acknowledge and appreciate the time, efforts and sacrifices they dedicate to the City to be effective members of these groups. I will miss our time together and wish you all nothing but the best.

I wish you all continued success and the happiest of holiday seasons.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Kelley