

Election 2007: Clarkson town council

Christa L. Filipowicz Clarkson Town Council



Office sought: Clarkson Town Council.
Endorsed by: Republican, Conservative,
Independence. Incumbent: served 8 years
(4-year term).

Pertinent information: Christa L. Filipowicz,
2518 Lake Road, 52.

Education: SUNY Brockport - BS, Master's in Public Administration; Emergency Management Institute Certifications: ICS 100, ICS 200, IS 700, IS 800. Monroe County Land Use Decision-Making certification. American Sign Language. Employment: Rochester Institute of Technology, Marketing Manager. Family: Husband Steve, two sons. Offices previously held: Planning Board 8 yrs, chair; Comprehensive Planning Committee chair; telecommunications committee chair. Volunteer/Community Service: LIFE/Liberty Partnership Program advisory board; SUNY Brockport Alumni Association - past president, Hall of Heritage Award; Clarkson Honor Roll; hockey and athletic booster clubs.

Two issues of primary importance in Clarkson

Continued Fiscal Responsibility -- Our residents understand the challenges that have gone into maintaining Clarkson's flat tax rate in spite of increasing costs and their desire (town survey) to not have large commercial development within our community to offset these costs. I will continue to be conservative in our spending and continue to find ways to accomplish these tasks responsibly. One example is completing the Comprehensive Plan and zoning modification in-house with grants and occasional assistance from professionals. Although it may take a little longer it will be *our* plan, developed and completed by Clarkson residents.

Safety -- Clarkson has always been a safe community and neighbors work together to solve issues. With greater frequency however, residents are voicing their concerns about neighborhood safety and the alarming increase in the speed in which vehicles travel on our roads. We've discussed these concerns with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and as a result patrols in our area have been increased. A request to reduce the speed limit on East Ave. was probably a factor in having a traffic light installed at the corner of Sweden Walker and East Ave. While each of us has the responsibility to drive at the posted speed limit, we will continue to work with the police department to maintain safe travel on our roadways.

Why are you seeking election/re-election?

I'm seeking re-election in order to finalize the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning changes that are necessary to complete the project. The bi-partisan committee of over 20 residents submitted the proposed plan and the Town Board began the hard-work of taking that vision and developing the criteria for lot sizes, set-backs, permitted uses, etc. The regulations have been formalized and the code nears completion. I applaud those that have worked hard to ensure our planning is in line with the direction our community wants. In addition, I remain committed to providing great services, keeping our tax rate flat, and serving the best interests of our residents.

What I wish you had asked

What have you heard on the campaign trail that you would like to respond to?

When I hear my opponent imply that the town board is a "rubber stamp" board and needs an independent voice, residents should know that this couldn't be further from the truth. Those that have worked with the current town board know that it is comprised of five very unique individuals. Each of us brings a different perspective from our professional and personal backgrounds that serve to continually challenge status-quo. Each issue is researched and debated thoroughly, eventually reaching a viable solution that has considered all facts. What is seen at the public Town Board meetings is a cohesive team that utilizes the strengths of its individuals.

Sheldon Meyers Clarkson Town Council



Office sought: Clarkson Town Council, endorsed by Democratic, Independence, & Working Families. 4 year term.

Pertinent information: Sheldon Meyers, 47, Master's in Public Administration, BS in Business Administration, SUNY Brockport, Health Care Account Manager, U.S. Foodservice, 16 year Clarkson Resident, Wife, Sara and two daughters. Community involvement: Clarkson Comprehensive Plan Committee Member, Clarkson Historical Society Member, Emergency Management Institute Certification, Former Civilian Employee New York City Fire Department, 3 year attendance and participation at town council meetings, advocate for residents.

Two issues of primary importance in Clarkson

I question the need for annual tax assessments. Many of our older residents are on fixed incomes and the younger ones are raising families and working harder than ever to pay the bills. However, the current Town Board approves of the State's Annual Tax Assessment Program. However, this is not a state mandated program but it is implemented by their choice. Many other towns choose not to assess annually. What is the result of lowering tax rates for residents when you raise their property value by thousands? As your Town Councilman, I will ask the questions as to why we need to participate in annual tax assessments.

One way we can help take the tax burden off of the residents is by working hard to fill the many commercial properties that sit vacant in town. We can fill these while keeping the rural character of the town. We need more small businesses to contribute to our tax base. This can be a way to replace the annual assessments while enhancing the town's appearance. As your town councilman, I will propose that we form a committee to address this long standing issue.

Why are you seeking election/re-election?

Three years ago, as a member of the Clarkson Comprehensive Plan Committee, I became involved with planning and shaping the future of our town. I agree with most residents concerns about keeping the rural character of the town with limited but smart growth. My participation on this committee motivated me to get more involved within the town. For years there had been no opposition during elections here in Clarkson. However, debate and compromise are the foundations of our democracy. Many times a conflicting point of view is beneficial and can lead to greater results. My running for office and participating at town board meetings the past 3 years have already yielded results. The past several years I have stressed the need for sidewalks along Gilmore Road. With the increase in residential development, the west end of Gilmore Road was no longer a country road. More and more residents, especially children, were using the shoulder. Gilmore now has sidewalks. I have also been critical of our Town Board regarding their complacency in pursuing grants. However, with elections pending, this year they hired a grant company and received a sizable grant to clean up a property on Ridge Road. This is a good start but more needs to be done. I have recently completed a grant writing course and have submitted a grant proposal for the Clarkson Historical Society's Schoolhouse Restoration Project. We are waiting for the result, but either way, as your Councilman, I will continue to write grants for this and other projects that will improve our town and save tax dollars.

What I wish you had asked

Why should the residents of Clarkson vote for me instead of either one of my opponents?

As we are all aware, the town has a large majority of Republican voters. Therefore, many have asked me (including Supervisor Kimball) to change parties because it would be easier for me to get elected. However, I am a man of my convictions, my parents were Democrats, and I do not see why party labels should make me a lesser qualified candidate. I am determined to get elected based upon my character, qualifications, and commitment to the people of Clarkson. This said, I was appalled to find out that when my opponent, Jackie Smith moved to Clarkson just one year ago, she was a registered Democrat. According to the Board of Education she is still a registered Democrat but can run as a Republican because of a "party change pending" rule. This is quite deceiving. I have faith that the voters in Clarkson will vote for the individual and not simply on party affiliation. I have lived in Clarkson for 16 years and plan to retire here. Take a close look at my education, qualifications, and commitment to serve. I believe that you will find that I am the best candidate. This is also why the Independence Party has given me their endorsement. My passion to serve the people of Clarkson has been demonstrated by my running for office three times. I have sacrificed resources and time with my family in my attempts to being granted the honor to serve you.

Jackie Smith Clarkson Town Council



Office: Town Council for Clarkson. Endorsements from Republican and Conservative Parties.

Pertinent information:

Jackie Smith (Tangen) 59 Sherwood Drive, Brockport, 37. BS Business Management degree in progress, Monroe Community College A.S. Degree Liberal Arts and Sciences, Brockport High School. Special Certification: Dale Carnegie Graduate; Emergency Management Institute Certification incident and action courses. Employment: Wegmans Food Markets, 16 years – assistant to one of the Senior Vice Presidents. Family: husband, Kevin Smith; two daughters, one son. Town appointed office: Clarkson Recreation Parks Advisory Board. Volunteer and Community Service: Clarkson Good Neighbor Days Board, Brockport Eagles Football/Cheerleading Board, Wall of Honor – representative for Town of Clarkson, Honor Roll - Coordinator.

Issues of primary importance in Clarkson

Fiscal Responsibility -- Residents of Clarkson would like to know that their representatives understand and exercise good judgment in the decisions they make in spending our tax dollars and I will help the council look for areas to do this in our budget. The current town council has been proactive in responding to this challenge and I plan to continue with this venture by making life affordable for all Clarkson residents.

Investments in our future -- There are many ways we can make an investment in our future. I will ensure that adequate planning takes place to preserve and protect the sense of community in Clarkson, while promoting sensible growth. I also intend to ensure that town services like our parks and libraries continue to meet the needs of all Clarkson residents.

Why are you seeking election/re-election?

I have a great deal of regard for our Clarkson elected officials and I also deeply appreciate the potential for helping our community that such a position holds. My interest in and commitment to gaining a seat with the Council has its roots in being a life long (37 years) member in this community. I am and have always been active in my community, with involvement in such activities as my kids' sports teams and scouting and volunteering for many organizations. I feel strongly that it is important to be active in our children's lives and that one way of doing this is to be involved in our community. I will work with all members of the council to do what is best for our residents of Clarkson.

What I wish you had asked

What would be considered my biggest asset that I bring to the Town Council position?

I feel my ability to listen and respond to my community's needs is a major asset that I can bring to the Town of Clarkson. I will listen to our community, seek their input and strive to find solution that our community will embrace. I have been very fortunate to be part of one of the Top 100 Companies to work for in America, for the past 16 years. I will bring with me the knowledge of helping our community and fulfilling this goal with what I have learned from my position within Wegmans. Leadership is yet another asset that I will bring to the Town Council seat. I have taken the initiative to work with Sweden Supervisor Buddy Lester on the Wall of Honor found at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center. I have asked for the approval from the Town of Clarkson that I may start work on updating the "Clarkson Honor Roll" found at the corners of Route 19 and Route 104. I feel that both of these displays are a memorial to our veterans and just one way to recognize the men and women who have served in the US military and who have made sacrifices for all of us.