

My name is Russell Cooke and I am running for Planning Board member. I was planning on being at the Meet the Candidates meeting tonight, but I have another commitment with a part time job. I'm sorry that I didn't request this evening to be free.

However, I want the people of Newington to know that I am a retired mechanical engineer, and that I would like to offer my experience to represent the townspeople as a member of the Planning Board. My philosophy is that, as a Planning Board member, my job is to ensure that building development plans meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and Building Regulations. As a follow-up to that, the Zoning Ordinances need to be clearly written to communicate clearly how we, the townspeople, want our town to be developed. I believe that our Ordinance is written well, but sections could be more clear. I also believe that the Planning Board's mission is to apply the Ordinance consistently and fairly across all developers. Further, when there is a disagreement concerning how the Ordinance is applied, that disagreement should be referred to the Board of Adjustment, as a quasi-judicial entity, to be adjudicated fairly.

I apologize for not being in attendance. However, I would appreciate everyone's vote!