

Kate Coon
Affordable Housing Committee Alternate

In 2019, Peterborough's Select Board convened the Housing Policy Task Force. In my application, I wrote this:

"I honestly never gave zoning and planning much thought during the 40 years we lived in Massachusetts, but moving here changed all that. I have become exponentially more invested and increasingly knowledgeable about the profound impact that planning decisions have-- both in the short term, and on the long-range master plan.

During what some of us might call 'the zoning wars,' it became increasingly clear to me that, indeed, the Master Plan creates the larger umbrella under which these fractious issues need to be addressed, worked through, and resolved. I believe they can be; I don't kid myself that it will be easy.

We need to read, study, engage with each other and also with others, in other towns and regions, who are tackling the same difficult problems. We may be a small town, but Peterborough's challenges are not unique to Peterborough. We also have an enviable richness of talent, resources, civic love and energy to draw upon. Housing policy, land use, zoning and planning are critically important to the vitality of this amazing town. I would be honored to take part in a collective effort in helping resolve issues that are central to Peterborough's sustained wellbeing.

I am an educator with a strong counseling background. I have decades of experience in conflict resolution! I read and write for a living, and am an avid life-long learner who has begun to read more widely and with great interest in the areas of housing policy, design, affordability, natural and cultural resources. It's a subject that has become fascinating to me, and almost a "tip of the spear" issue facing our country, not just our town. Housing policy has significant ramifications wrapped up in seemingly arcane language. I'm a good listener." (July 2019)

All of this seems as true today as it was four and half years ago. In one of our small group exercises in that Task Force, I said, "I don't want to be that person who pulls up the ladder behind them" when they arrive. That's probably my main core value proposition.

I am also:

Chair: LWVNH PeterboroughPlus ([League of Women Voters](#))

Member: LWVNH Steering Committee for Housing Study

Vice-Chair: Peterborough Recreation Committee

Chair: Friends of Peterborough Recreation Projects (501c3) Board

Vice-President: [Peterborough Folk Music](#)

Co-Chair: Coalition for [Open Democracy Board](#)

Co-Leader: [Open Democracy Book Club](#)

Book Reviewer: Book Corner, [Neighbors Together](#)

Member: Peterborough Garden Club; Chair: PGC Town Gardens committee

Member: Parks Committee volunteers maintaining downtown gardens and Teixeira

Member: Peterborough Town Library volunteer gardeners

Member: Peterborough Woman's Club

Member: 100+ Women Who Care

Coordinator: Community Center Garden (formerly Cornucopia Garden, Elm Street)

Independent Educational Consultant: www.katecoon.com

Member: National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC)

Mom, Grandmother, Sister, Wife, Auntie