

What skills do you bring that would benefit the Town?

I have experience coordinating major events, securing grants, overseeing improvement projects, and working with a wide range of community stakeholders. I also have a background in small business operations, customer service, and nonprofit management, giving me a strong understanding of budgeting, communications, and community-building. My ability to listen carefully, work collaboratively, and find common ground would help strengthen Shepherdstown's tradition of inclusive and thoughtful decision-making.

What are the pressing issues you see that the Town needs to address and how would you address them?

Infrastructure: Our aging stormwater systems, roads, and public buildings need attention to maintain safety and function.

Affordability: We must balance the preservation of Shepherdstown's small-town character with the pressures of growth, ensuring that long-time residents can continue to afford to live here.

Community Engagement: Strengthening two-way communication with residents is essential for trust and transparency.

To address these, I would work to secure grants and outside funding to supplement town budgets, support policies that preserve affordability for young people, and families as well as retirees, and encourage open lines of communication—through surveys, community listening sessions, and digital outreach—so residents have a voice in shaping decisions.

If you are familiar with the draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan, are these issues addressed in the draft?

Yes, the draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan addresses these concerns. It calls for investment in infrastructure, recognizes the challenges of housing affordability, and stresses the importance of preserving Shepherdstown's historic and cultural character while managing responsible growth. It also places a strong emphasis on community engagement, aligning with my belief that the people who live here should help guide our town's future.

How would you engage with the community members to understand their concerns?

I would prioritize a mix of formal and informal engagement. I believe in holding open forums and town halls, setting up pop-up booths at community events, conducting surveys both online and in person, and being accessible through scheduled meetings. I also regularly attend town events and support local businesses, which naturally puts me in conversation with residents, visitors, and business owners. Listening well—whether across a counter or at a council meeting—is one of the best ways to stay connected to the heart of the community.

How would you work with the Mayor and fellow Council members to find common ground on important issues?

I believe respectful dialogue, active listening, and a focus on shared values are the foundation of good governance. I would approach my work with the Mayor and fellow Council members by seeking first to understand their perspectives, looking for areas of agreement, and being solutions-oriented rather than adversarial. I believe strongly in collaboration, a willingness to compromise when needed, and keeping the well-being of the entire community at the center of every decision.

Are you able to meet on several evenings every month, several standing meetings and some on an ad hoc basis?

Yes. I already do so as part of my involvement with other community organizations. I'm accustomed to making room in my schedule for regular and last-minute meetings because I believe showing up and participating fully is part of honoring the trust a community places in its representatives.