

Good Morning Nate, Chairman Faulkner and the Town of Charlotte Selectboard,

I'm writing to express my interest in being appointed to the open position of Tree Warden for the Town of Charlotte.

I believe my professional qualifications coupled with my volunteer experiences in Charlotte will allow me to be a fair and productive Tree Warden.

While nobody can replace the vacuum left by the late Larry Hamilton, Charlotte's longest serving Tree Warden, Mark Dillenbeck, did a better job at it than anyone could have hoped for. Mark's leadership and thousands of hours of time and effort he poured into this work has benefitted Charlotte in so many ways. Having worked closely with Larry (and Deputy Tree Warden, Sue Smith) in my early days serving on the Selectboard, I will strive to honor his decades of leadership and culture to provide continuity for the Town in regards to its tree programs and ideals.

In the late 90s, I made a career working with soil and plants helping Charlotte's own design and build company, Landshapes, grow on the Old Aube Farm on Route 7 (before we built our own shop in Richmond). During that time, we joined the Vermont Association of Professional Horticulturists (VAPH), started our own tree and shrub nursery (in Monkton), while also transforming and maintaining many homesteads in town. Landshapes owner/operator Jason Hutchins, shared a shop with J. Hutchins Inc. and worked in tandem with his older brother, former Charlotte Road Commissioner, Jeff Hutchins. By diffusion, I absorbed decades of Charlotte history from the lens of a road commissioner which included many intersections with and decisions by the town as it relates to our trees. I went on to complete the coursework for the UVM Extension Master Gardener's Program and also enjoyed teaching fruit tree pruning for many seasons through the ACCESS CVU night classes for adults at the high school.

In my decade of volunteering on committees and commissions, I've always gravitated toward committees and commissions with connections to nature and the outdoors. I served as a member on the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee, the advisory committee on Ash Tree Removal Program, and worked closely with Nicole Conley and Charlie Prout (of Horsford's Nursery) on the creation of a Master Plan for the Charlotte Beach. I've served as liaison to the Recreation Committee, Trails Committee, Energy Committee, and the Thompson's Point Association.

Having grown up here, I've borne witness to this once vibrant and productive dairy town change and evolve into its present day form by a mix of powerful market forces and equally impactful local intentional living.

I'm committed to honoring our cultural and town plan's commitment to our natural environment and agrarian landscape.

My New England libertarian sensibilities means I believe in people's right to do what they want on their own property and feel the best way to affect positive change for our collective climate and ecosystems in Charlotte is through continuing the previous Tree Wardens' approaches of education and community outreach.

If appointed to this position, I would always have a humble and open minded approach and provide the public with a decision making process that maximizes public participation and input before making the executive decisions charged to the Tree Warden by state statute.

I'd work closely with the Road Commissioner, Junior Lewis and support his work in any way I can.

And I would always be available to the Selectboard for any related needs that arise for the town.

I would be happy to attend a future meeting to answer any questions if this is the desire of the board.

Appreciatively,

Matt Krasnow