

Happy New Year and Happy First Birthday, Princeton! I'd like to thank all of you, Princeton's most active citizenry, for attending today.

I'd also like to thank my husband Jon for his support, and my daughter Susan, a Princeton High School graduate, for coming from New York on this snowy day to swear me in.

2013 was a great first year and I want to thank our mayor, my council colleagues and the staff for that. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you as we've spent many hours in meetings, bonded by our common goal, the greater good for our town.

Liz, you jumped into the hot frying pan as our first mayor with courage and grace – first having the gumption to run for Mayor and then for actually serving as mayor. We've had great successes due to your leadership. You have kept up the momentum with your boundless energy, keeping us all on our toes and working hard. You expect the best from everyone and you get it.

Bernie, it's a pleasure to work with you as our Council president. We all benefit from your executive experience as well as your diligence and organization in communications. Thank you for agreeing to be our council president again!

Lance, you seem to be able to be in two places at once as you attend so many meetings. Your friendship and kind-hearted generosity are invaluable both to me and the residents of Princeton, who may not realize all you do behind the scenes. You know everybody! You really bring people together and solve problems.

Jo, you are always thoroughly prepared, organized and you are on top of whatever issue we face, often with a considered opinion that challenges us – in a good way – to think differently. Your forthright questions and your strong independence make us a better team.

Heather, I can always rely on your progressive voice and sharp mind to help clarify thorny issues. Like all good attorneys, you have a way of asking a question that actually points toward the right answer. Your amazing people skills making connections throughout the state benefit us all.

Patrick, you've been an amazing first-year council member. The town is fortunate to have your super analytical skills. With your attention to detail, and your insistence on the highest standard, you raise the bar but with such tact and a friendly manner, it has been truly a pleasure.

-- But turning to 2014 and the upcoming year -- we will be working on much of what we started last year. We've begun reconciling the former Borough and Township ordinances but we have a long way to go. The Planning Board is reconciling land use ordinances as well, with the first issue being the historic preservation ordinance. We're still working out the kinks in our leaf and brush pickup program, which has not been easy but we're getting there. The Shade Tree Commission celebrated completing our tree inventory and we look forward to documenting a new, required, five year plan for tree maintenance in support of our consolidated Tree City. The Environmental Commission continually strives to reduce our town's carbon footprint and to decrease the amount of permanent garbage we produce, as well as working to decrease negative environmental impacts through improvements in our land use process. We hope to eventually make our composting program economically viable for individuals – for now, environmentally conscious residents who want to take part can join at a cost of less than about \$6 per month. I encourage those with the means to give it a try!

We have some new challenges for the upcoming year as well. We have to face the dreaded day when we say goodbye to our administrator Bob Bruschi at the end of the year when he retires. That's not going to be easy and not just because Bob is such a nice guy. He's been central to the consolidation effort and he does an amazing job keeping the town running and making it look easy. // We will have to decide whether to finally build a cold storage garage for our heavy machinery or continue to allow expensive equipment to rust and deteriorate ahead of its time from exposure to the elements. //It looks like we'll face a controversial request from the University for rezoning lower Alexander Road.

But however challenging these decisions are, it will be a pleasure to work them out as the team up on the dais and with the public through your input and conversation. Please email me! The push and pull of ideas through healthy debate are what makes this job interesting and I love hearing from you. It is both a pleasure and an honor to serve. //Thank you again!

