

Jenny Crumiller – Remarks

I want to thank the people who are here for your interest and participation in local government. We are fortunate to have so many involved residents and friends of Princeton. You keep us on our toes by speaking out at meetings, sending emails and calling us and I really mean it when I say keep it up in 2018!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Bernie and Jo. We will miss you both.

Bernie, we all benefitted from your executive leadership experience, as you shepherded us through bragworthy projects like the landfill solar field and less glamorous but equally important projects like our real estate inventory for affordable housing and the cold storage facility that's finally getting underway. We wish you well in your new pursuits.

Jo, you hold yourself and everyone else to a high standard. You've challenged us and the consolidated municipality is better for that. You read widely and have always been on top of whatever issue we face. I hope you will continue to send emails with relevant news links! On a personal note, you have been a good friend on council and I am going to miss sitting next to you greatly.

On to our new colleagues. Leticia, there is much to celebrate as you join us on the dais. We are proud to have our first ever Latina council member. But you have already been integral to our success through your work on the Human Services Commission and Civil Rights Commission, where your thoughtful and deliberative leadership has helped navigate what are often choppy waters. It's going to be great working with you!

David, you have also already been super helpful to us through your work on the Planning Board and lending us your expertise while we try to work out a plan to enable a private group to save the Veblen House. You have a calm and steady way about you even when people start to disagree that has earned you great respect in the community. The council is good hands with the addition of the two of you.

Lance, you are always a supportive and helpful colleague. You make us a great team. And I've said this before but I'll say it again—I doubt many people know how much you do behind the scenes to help residents. Since everyone knows you, everyone with problems comes to you. Yet you manage to help people and bring people together to solve problems and usually it's out of the spotlight.

Heather, as xenophobic anti-immigration nonsense has increased throughout the country, you've been at the forefront of our efforts to create a welcoming town, watching out for the rights of vulnerable residents. I appreciate all you do to make sure our government bucks that nasty trend. But you are also sparkly and very quick and it's been enjoyable serving with you. I'm looking forward to working with you for another year.

Tim, it's been fun and rewarding getting to know you this year and working with you, in part because you are the most like a Millennial on the Council. You live right in town where you can walk everywhere, you ride your bike all the time, you have an Apple watch and you're really into social media. But you are into social media in a generous way and because of you, I now get a lot more likes. Everyone should follow Tim on Facebook and Twitter so you'll be in the know. Joking aside, you help us all keep connected and I want to thank you for that.

Liz, your speech was long but that's because of all the work you have done. Your energy seems boundless, but so does your patience as you deal with all that a mayor has to deal with. I'm thrilled to be by your side as council president again this year.

Last, I want to thank our staff – Mark, Kathy, and everyone else who make up the heart and soul of our government. We are so lucky to have a great staff. We often get credit for what you do and I want to thank you for that.

With that, I close and say thank you!