

2008 Nomination for Citizen Planner

Nominee:

Nancy C. Malcolm
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Nominator:

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Statement of Qualification / Eligibility

Eligibility: *“To an individual who advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. This could include members of planning boards/commissions, zoning boards of adjustment/appeals, economic development boards/commissions, or other elected or appointed officials. It could also include the more non-traditional roles of citizen activists or neighborhood leaders.”*

Nancy Malcolm is a member of the Middlebury Planning Commission and the Middlebury Development Review Board. She has served on these panels since 2005.

Nancy Malcolm is Chairperson of the Middlebury Area Creative Economy Program Outreach Group, a steering committee that was organized in February of 2007. This program spawned four planning /economic development initiatives – Riverfront, ARTSConnect, Alternative Energy, and Business Incubator. Nancy has continued to Chair the Riverfront planning group.

As the attached letters attest, Nancy Malcolm is a mover, constructive activist and community leader in several community initiatives.

Citizen Planner Award Criteria

Support of planning: *“To what extent has the nominee’s time and dedication increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process as well as the goals of the organization of which he or she is a part. How has this advocacy role been pursued?”*

Effectiveness: *“How has the nominee promoted the cause and advanced the merits of planning? Within what sphere of influence has this effectiveness been realized?”*

Nancy Malcolm moved to Middlebury with her husband Dr. James ‘Chip’ Malcolm, in the early 1970’s, and she been a village resident at their present home since 1975. Over the past 35 years plus, her dedication to community has been continuous, diverse and significant in every initiative she has undertaken.

Her breadth of involvement in community spans the areas of healthy living, health care, children and youth, schools, the business community, recreation and park improvements, and, in recent years, community and economic development planning.

The depth of her community, non-profit, and business planning experience is woven from diverse perspectives and experience. Nancy has been President of Porter Medical Center Auxiliary, developing community events and raising funds for support of our regional hospital. She was an early advocate for safety, initiating an infant child seat program in the community and serving as an Advocate for abused children. Nancy also worked at student services at Middlebury College, at the Addison County Chamber of Commerce (building membership), and at United Way of Addison County (building business fundraising support for community non-profits). She has briefly been a realtor and owned /operated a retail shop downtown.

In more recent times, Nancy has become a key member of the Planning Commission and has helped organize a strategic planning retreat in 2006. And while the Planning Commission was swamped with a major Zoning and Subdivision Regs rewrite and major development applications, Nancy took on grant applications and planning organization for a Safe Routes to School walking/biking initiative.

Among Nancy’s foremost community planning accomplishments are KidSpace, Middlebury Union High School (MUHS), and her current initiative, a riverfront park facing the Middlebury Falls on Otter Creek in downtown Middlebury.

KidSpace is a playground—some would say a village for kids—at Mary Hogan Elementary School and the Middlebury Recreation Park. It was constructed by 1500 community volunteers over 4 days in 1987. Nancy Malcolm planned and organized this amazing project. She involved children in the planning and design with Architect Robert Leathers, generated interest among parents, raised funding support, recruited local trades persons and businesses (which supplied the materials), and organized team leaders of

community volunteers. Today this project still stands as one of Middlebury's anchors of livability and community recreational assets. Extensive citizen participation and involvement, application of planning processes and organizational leadership, resulting in a successful project and an enduring source of community pride, KidSpace is an outstanding accomplishment.

Nancy next took on improvements at Middlebury Union High School (MUHS). In the 1990s, at a time when our regional high school improvement bond was defeated and pride in our high school was at a low ebb, Nancy led an initiative to rebuild community pride by implementing key improvements at the Cafeteria and front entrance through private fundraising. This effort inspired a positive attitude within the school community as well as among voters and led to a successful bond vote for new facilities—including a new Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS) and major MUHS renovation. Nancy's initiative and planning/organizing skills once again were key to motivating the community to become involved, bringing together individuals and businesses, (and raising \$150,000!). Again, we have an example of a lasting improvement that is more than bricks and mortar. Rather, it is a strengthening of community involvement and pride. As a result, the tradition of community participatory planning, nurtured by individual leadership, has become further woven into local tradition and community inspiration in Middlebury.

Nancy's current project—known as the Terraces at Middlebury Falls—is a riverfront park that achieves several planning objectives. Not only will it compliment our downtown and historic Marble Works property (which is the site of our localvore Farmer's Market), it will enhance and interpret the wildlife habitat at the Otter Creek falls. The project is an outgrowth of Middlebury's Creative Economy Program, which spawned the creation of a "rivers group." Nancy has chaired this group and was instrumental in initiating clean up of the site last fall (using community volunteer and VT Youth Conservation Corps participants), which has allowed local citizens to see the improvement possibilities of the property.

And in the Spring and summer of 2008, Nancy spearheaded a community leaders summit. This summit consisted of a series of three sessions including the Select Board, Planning Commission, Bridge Committee, Town-College Economic Development Initiative, Middlebury Area Land Trust, Middlebury Business Association, and the River Group. The purpose of the summit was to coordinate community planning not only for the Terraces project but also for a Downtown-Riverfront Planning process that will be Middlebury's next major visioning and community planning effort. As a follow up to the summit, Nancy organized and delegated preparation of an Enhancement grant application and—as this is written, today—Nancy has herself written a grant application to the Jane's Trust for the riverfront project.

As Town Planner in Middlebury for 28 years, I can say without hesitation that Nancy Malcolm's support of planning, dedication, advocacy and effectiveness as a citizen planner have been fantastic – always constructive. She is the kind of citizen planner that I would wish for in the communities of all my colleague professional planners.

Nancy Malcolm is an exemplary MOVER—way more than an energetic citizen volunteer – she is a thoughtful and thorough communicator with a 35-year web of community connections and accomplishments. She has an innate ability to read people, inspire them to get involved organize and delegate. As the attached letters attest, Nancy Malcolm is an inspiration to citizens of what citizen planners can accomplish.