

Alison Kaiser has submitted her resignation as Stowe Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector.

As many of you know, Alison was struck by another driver around a year ago while traveling to work. She has worked valiantly to recover and continues to make strides, but decided that she could not return to work, as she needs to continue to focus on her recovery process.

Alison grew up in Stowe and continued to live here for most of her twenty-four years that she worked for the Town. She started off as the Town Manager's Executive Assistant and Clerk to the Stowe Selectboard and then became the Town Clerk / Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector.

Alison is respected within municipal government, both within the community and throughout the state. She was President of the Vermont Town Clerk's Association and received the Town Clerk of the Year 2006 from the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association.

She believed in continuous learning throughout her career and was rightfully proud when she received a *Certified Municipal Clerk* from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and graduated from the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute and Academy. She was always willing to help her peers within the profession.

Alison was also on the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Karen Richard's, Colchester Town Clerk, told me recently, "I got to know Alison when she invited me to serve on the Legislative Committee with her many years ago. We spent many days in Montpelier battling for the clerks. She was relentless and persistent in her testimonies, but delivered with a smile. She earned the respect of the legislators.

Alison also saw beyond herself. There is a box in the hallway for the people to drop off food to the Lamoille County Food Shelf. She was behind that initiative and I often observed her putting food in the box.

Alison was a good steward of public records and the trust the community placed in her. She took the lead in ensuring adequate and safe vault space was available. The old vault didn't have adequate space and was separating from the building. The separation didn't offer good climate control for town records. Plans were drawn up and the voters approved the construction of the current vault.

When I arrived in Stowe ten years ago I took stock of the Town department heads that constituted the team of employees I had to work with. I didn't have to worry about Alison. She had a solid background in municipal government, understood Stowe and is smart. Even though she didn't have to as an elected official, she went above and beyond in her willingness to work inter-departmentally and support me. Later on, she supported a Charter change moving the position from being elected to being appointed by the Town Manager. She saw her chosen career field as a profession and thought it should be treated as such.

I will begin the advertising process for a new Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector. I've realized over the years that you don't replace people. Each person is unique and irreplaceable. I and others in Stowe miss Alison. However, it will be a new chapter and the legacy she left will help the next Town Clerk / Treasurer while they leave their own mark.