



# *An Open Letter from* **TERRENCE McCAULEY** Candidate, Town Supervisor

Dear Neighbor:

Having lived in Amenia with my family for over twenty years, I know how lucky we are to call Amenia our home. That's why I'm honored to run for Town Supervisor on the Republican and Common Ground lines. I know we can make Amenia better if we all work together. With your support, here's how we'll do it.

### **The nature of government is changing.**

Today, we expect elected officials to be more active. To be more responsive. To find ways of doing more with less. Applying for grants and hoping for funding from Washington or Albany isn't good enough anymore. Amenia needs a town supervisor who has faced these challenges before.

### **Amenia Needs Experienced Leadership.**

I spent twenty-five years in New York State government where I worked under four governors from both parties. I've also worked with both Republicans and Democrats at the federal, state, county and local levels. I've worked on the issues that are vital to Amenia's future: Housing, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Transportation, Community Development and Public Affairs. I've worked with dozens of stakeholders, community organizations and municipalities throughout the Harlem and Hudson Valleys. I want to put that experience to work for Amenia.

### **Amenia Needs New Leadership, Not More Partisanship.**

Town board meetings are for town business, not platforms for ugly political rants. It's time to end the ugly partisanship that has plagued Amenia's town government in recent years. We can no longer allow unelected bureaucrats and special interests to decide Amenia's future.

### **Amenia Needs Proactive Leadership, Not Passive Acceptance.**

We must end the lax oversight that has led to avoidable conflict-of-interest lawsuits like the Kent Hollow fiasco. Past and pending litigation has sent Amenia's legal costs soaring. That money should've been spent on Amenia's urgent needs. More proactive leadership today will minimize risk tomorrow.

### **Amenia Residents Deserve More Public Input.**

As someone who's been fortunate to have published more than thirty novels, I know that great ideas emerge when people interact. The successful Amenia Harvest Festival and 'Engaging Amenia' public meeting this summer proved that. Sponsored by the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee on which I serve, Amenia residents showed that they want a voice in their town's future. But public comment periods at town board meetings aren't enough in the digital age. The town should be able to accept public comments on town business via smartphones, desktops and laptops. Town Board and Committee meetings should be simultaneously aired on YouTube, Zoom, Facebook Live and other platforms. And meetings should be aired on Channel 22 again. For those not technologically inclined, we'll work with the Amenia Free Library to assist them.

And when you contact Town Hall, a Constituent Services Database should be used to track all incoming complaints and issues. Residents will also receive a reference number, ensuring an accurate response in a timely manner.

**LOCAL VALUES. LOCAL LEADERSHIP. FOR AMENIA.**



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## **Amenia Needs Clearer Information.**

Digging through the town website for information isn't good enough anymore. Creating 'The Amenia Dashboard' would give the public a live, easy-to-read comprehensive view of all town government and committee activities, current status and next steps. These improvements won't cost the town a dime. They can be accomplished with software currently at the town's disposal.

## **Amenia Must be A Place For All.**

We can't let Amenia become a place only for the very rich or the very poor. Amenia must be a place for young people starting out in life. Where people - regardless of age - can start over. Where older residents can downsize without leaving the community they love. We can accomplish this by working together to set achievable goals.

## **Amenia Doesn't Need High Density Housing.**

I oppose forcing high-density housing into areas where it would damage our ecosystem, lower property values and create more traffic congestion in the center of town. But we can still address housing concerns by broadening our options.

## **Amenia Must Explore Private and Public Sector Partnerships.**

Amenia is fortunate to have several exciting development possibilities in town, including the Taconic DDSO property at Ten Mile River. Throughout my career in Economic and Community Development, I've seen how government can work with the private sector to explore housing options that benefit communities in a responsible manner. Other towns have done it. Amenia can do it, too. But we need more than just housing options.

## **Amenia Must Improve Its Failing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.**

Removing lead pipes from our drinking water and finally addressing the ongoing wastewater dilemma must be our top priorities. I will work with existing committees and volunteers to address this growing concern.

## **Amenia Needs More Honesty in Government.**

There are no quick solutions. Changing our town's focus won't happen overnight. It will take time, dedication and teamwork. We'll make mistakes, but we'll learn from them. But I know Amenia can achieve everything listed above if we work together. I know it can be done, because I've done it my entire professional career.

That's why I humbly ask you to support me and my fellow Republican/Common Ground candidates when you vote this November. I welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you might have. You can contact me at [terrence@terrencemccauley.com](mailto:terrence@terrencemccauley.com) or call/text me at: 845-475-1567.

I hope I earn your vote. And I'd be honored to serve as your next Town Supervisor.

Sincerely,

Terrence McCauley  
Candidate for Amenia Town Supervisor

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