

## Affirming Dummerston as a Compassionate Community

Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Occasion: Dummerston's Selectboard Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Purpose: Inform SB about my intentions to promote Dummerston's affirming as a Compassionate Community

Speaking: Catie G. Berg, representing Transition Dummerston (TD)

- **Transition Dummerston** is part of the international Transition Town network of local initiatives that build community resilience and well-being in the face of energy, climate, and economic challenges. –Operating since December, 2011

History: - Rupa Cousins, a member of the Brattleboro Area Interfaith Initiative, has promoted Dummerston's adoption of an international Charter for Compassion, as promoted by Karen Armstrong in 2009.

- Rupa was too ill to attend our March 7 Town Meeting. She asked a member of Transition Dummerston' Initiating Group (TDIG) to promote the Charter for Compassion at Town Meeting.

- I agreed to represent Rupa and TD by speaking at Town Meeting to promote residents' affirming Dummerston as a Compassionate Community.

- After reviewing Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion," I told Rupa & the TDIG that I preferred to facilitate a conversation among residents to define their own notion of how Dummerston affirms compassionate community. I thought that Armstrong's Charter assumed more than I could support.

- I spoke during "other business" at Town Meeting. I asked residents to join a conversation that would support action—an article or a resolution affirming Compassionate Community—at Town Meeting in 2018.

- I wrote an article for the Spring edition of the *Views of Dummerston* to explain this history and invite residents to an initial conversation. <http://dummerston.com/views/27ii/VoD27ii-10.html>

Now: - I'm here to inform you about my initiative and to answer questions.

- I'll facilitate an initial "Conversation about Affirming Dummerston as a Compassionate Community" tomorrow at 7:00 P.M. in the basement of the Congregational Church.

Future: - Residents may decide to call for affirming our compassionate community at Town Meeting in 2018.