

December 11, 2024

Dear Beth,

Congratulations! We are happy to inform you that you have been chosen as this year's recipient of the Community Building Award.

By way of explanation, Ned Coffin left a generous bequest to the Town of Strafford to establish a "Community Building Award". His intention was to annually recognize individuals or organizations in town who have made "major contributions to building a sense of community in the town". Strafford's Trustees of Public Funds manages this legacy, and the Selectboard has established a committee to annually recommend a deserving person or organization in town.

Your worthiness of this recognition is apparent to anyone who has lived in Strafford for a length of time. For decades, you have been effectively "on call" for the residents of Strafford. Your work for the FAST squad, sometimes in life-or-death situations, is valued not just for the professional expertise you offer, but also for the kind and compassionate manner in which you deliver it. For years, you have managed to put people at ease in extremely stressful situations. As if that weren't enough, you also handle administrative matters as the chief of the FAST Squad. Put simply, this award is an attempt to convey the gratitude of the people of Strafford for your many years of extraordinary service.

As one person commented, "I called Beth just to ask a question; she instantly came to my home and checked my vitals. Beth's immediate action was extremely reassuring and supportive."

As you well know, Strafford's remoteness makes it less than an ideal place when emergency services are needed. Having your professional skill and personal compassion available to Strafford at a moment's notice has helped the community overcome that significant disadvantage — and offers peace of mind to Straffordites that we hope you are aware of. You have been there for so many when they are in that time of need.

Sincerest thanks for your many, many years of service,

The Community Building Award Committee,  
Lori Mikusa, Andy Coffin, Brooke Wilkinson, Rebecca Seibel, Willis Phelps