



June 2024



## Candace Faust

**Councilperson, Eatontown Borough Council  
(Monmouth County)**

Candace Faust is a member of the Eatontown Borough Council and a lifelong resident of the Borough. She has served on the Traffic Advisory Committee, the Community Garden Committee, the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Shade Tree Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. After years of dedicated volunteer work and relationship building within the Borough, Candace is using her experience to implement important policies and sustainability initiatives to improve the quality of life for the community she loves.



Candace has made it her mission to develop a walkable and bikeable community that is safe, equitable and accessible for people of all ages and abilities. She is the co-founder of the Eatontown Complete Streets Advisory Committee that has enabled the Borough to receive six grants totaling nearly \$900,000 related to Complete Streets initiatives. Eatontown was awarded the [Gold Safe Routes to School Award](#) for 2023-2025 and, thanks to Candace's leadership, Eatontown is the first town in New Jersey to adopt by ordinance the [New Jersey Department of Transportation Complete and Green Streets for All Model Policy](#). In 2023, [Smart Growth America](#) ranked Eatontown's ordinance first in the state of New Jersey and thirteenth in the nation. Candace serves as a mentor to other towns and shares steps for success at events including the New Jersey Planning Conference, the New Jersey Bike and Walk Summit and the League of Municipalities with the New Jersey Safe Routes Academy.

Candace is an active volunteer. A typical week for Candace might include a meeting with the girl scouts to discuss the importance of volunteering; helping students at a bike safety rodeo; educating the community about Department of Public Works initiatives; attending a movie night hosted by the boy scouts; supporting an event to help local veterans and, of course, going to meetings where she is the council liaison, such as the Eatontown Traffic Advisory Committee, Complete Streets Advisory Committee, Green Team and Shade Tree Commission.



Candace's service is guided by a true commitment to help others. She has experienced her own health and personal challenges from which she has gained strength while focusing on the positive. She explained, "My approach to sustainability is that we're all responsible to be stewards of the Earth. I do this by showing respect and helping my neighbors, constituents and co-workers, and ultimately by taking action to preserve our planet."

She added, “This work takes patience. I’m playing the long game. I understand that I may not benefit from all the results, but it is my hope that others will.”

### Exit 105 and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Candace has a long list of new initiatives and events she is working on. She is planning a year full of events with speakers to commemorate the anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which will focus on the 105-year anniversary of the law’s passing. She hopes to promote the events from the angle that Eatontown is Exit 105 on the Garden State Parkway. She recently had the Eatontown Borough Council pass a resolution of support for the Equal Rights Amendment. In addition, she is working on securing funding for an Eatontown Community Energy Plan as well as helping other towns in her role with the Sustainable Jersey Monmouth County Hub.



### Borough of Eatontown Complete and Green Streets for All Policy

In 2017, Candace and Eatontown Borough Councilmember Virginia East attended Sustainable Jersey’s Complete Streets workshop at the New Jersey League of Municipalities annual conference in Atlantic City and brought back ideas on how to improve transportation options and address connectivity. At that time, the Borough was undergoing a Master Plan re-examination where multiple groups and committees had mentioned the need for better connectivity through town.

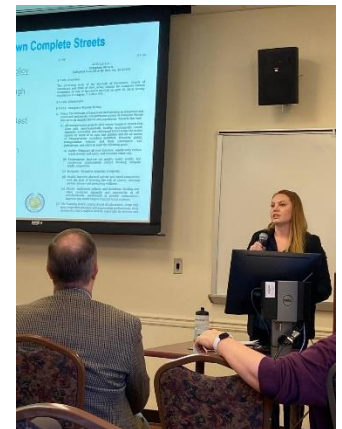


Candace created the Eatontown Complete Streets Advisory Committee to investigate and start a complete streets effort. In August 2018, the Borough was one of nine communities selected to receive up to \$10,000 in technical assistance from the [Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program](#). This program, funded by the [North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority](#), supports municipalities by providing them with the knowledge, skills and resources to develop Complete Streets-related solutions. Technical assistance is provided through a partnership with Sustainable Jersey and the [Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University](#).

To better understand the challenges, the Complete Streets Advisory Committee held community walks through the local parks. Representatives from the Eatontown Fire Department, Police Department, First Aid Squad and the Office of Emergency Management all participated. The walks created a partnership between the community, organizations and the borough staff that facilitated the complete streets planning process and helped identify a potential route to connect the parks and community destinations.



Eatontown Borough adopted a Complete and Green Streets ordinance in March of 2019. The ordinance formalizes a policy by prescribing permanent and enforceable rules of process. Along with the ordinance, Eatontown also adopted [Complete and Green Street checklists](#) that are used by their engineers and the municipal planning and zoning boards to make sure opportunities for infrastructure that supports walking, biking, taking transit and sustainable stormwater management are considered as part of development applications and other road projects.



Candace explained, “The Borough is using the checklists that were adopted as part of our Complete Street ordinance to guide project selection, planning, design, construction, funding and maintenance. It provides the Borough an extra level

of protection to make sure projects are done well and shows developers that we value the guidelines while helping them see what is needed for Eatontown, like adding an Electric Vehicle charger to their site plan.” Eatontown Borough is the municipal spotlight in the Sustainable Jersey action: [Complete & Green Streets for All Policy](#).



### **Eatontown Borough Greenway**

After completing the Complete and Green Streets Policy, Candace sought assistance to develop an Eatontown Borough Greenway Plan to identify potential infrastructure improvements needed to create a multi-use trail connecting Wolcott Park, Wampum Lake Memorial Park and the F. Bliss Price Arboretum and Wildlife Sanctuary. The Borough of Eatontown received three grants totaling \$825,000 from the [New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid Program](#) to support this work.

The Eatontown Greenway is located in the heart of Eatontown and, when finished, will connect three parks, downtown businesses, Borough Hall, the library, the Community Center and schools. The projects in the greenway, based on recommendations developed through the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program, will provide bikers and walkers with a route off Route 35. In addition to planning, the Borough held a contest to develop the Eatontown Greenway logo which the Eatontown residents participated in. The project includes paving, sidewalks and lighting, as well as a small footbridge over the water that separates Lewis and West Streets. The completed pedestrian footbridge is informally called “Candace’s Crossing” in recognition of her work to move the project to completion.



### **Eatontown Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

Eatontown applied to the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs for technical assistance to conduct a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan. A steering committee was created, and three public meetings were held to form a plan. Additional input was garnered by conducting public meetings and through public outreach at the community event Eatontown Day. The [Eatontown Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#), published in May 2022, details the status of the borough’s sidewalks and bike routes and provides a plan to remedy those areas that are in need of attention to ensure safe travels for pedestrians and cyclists. Eatontown Borough received 10 points toward their certification with the completion of the Sustainable Jersey action: [Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan](#).

### **Sustainable Jersey Silver Certified**

The [Borough of Eatontown](#) created the Green Team by ordinance on July 13, 2011. The [Eatontown Borough Green Team](#) moved from bronze-level Sustainable Jersey certification to silver-level in 2022 with 355 points. Completed certification actions include Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen; Community Gardens; Building Healthier Communities; Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan; Institute Complete Streets; and Natural Resources Inventory. To see all the actions completed, review the [2022 Eatontown Borough Certification Report](#).

### **More about Candace**

Candace grew up in Eatontown and is the oldest of five children. She has volunteered all her life and has always been active with the Veterans of Foreign War Post 2226, as she comes from a military family. Candace received a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science/Middle Eastern Studies from Rutgers University. She has three dogs: Teddi, Cannoli and Bean. She even wrote a children’s book about her dog, Norman, called [Norman The Christmas Dog](#). The story is about a rescue dog finding his forever home and his adventure to meet Santa. A portion of the proceeds of the book go to the [Monmouth County SPCA](#) to help other animals find families of their own to celebrate with.

