

We Are Two

One of the reasons most often cited for consolidating Princeton Borough with Princeton Township is that we are already the same community--"we are all one." True, we are all Princetonians. We share a school system. We share a downtown. We share many services. We participate jointly on many advisory boards. We share many values.

But, in fact, there are very important differences. Princeton Borough is a town, only 1.8 square miles, densely populated, with 6651 persons per square mile, where many residents walk to everything. Princeton Township is geographically more like a suburb, almost ten times as large as the Borough, with a population density of 993 people per square mile, where many residents must drive to everything. As a result of the geographical difference, there is a difference in perspective. There is a Borough perspective, and there is a Township perspective. The two perspectives are not the same. Borough and Township residents, and Borough Council and Township Committee, often take different positions on important issues that affect both municipalities. If there were no difference between the Borough and the Township, there would be no conflicts between the two governing bodies.

It is therefore appropriate to maintain two separate municipalities, with separate ordinances and separate decision-making powers. It is appropriate for us to share schools and services, as long as both municipalities wish to. But it is not appropriate to irrevocably consolidate municipalities that have such different perspectives. We are not one. We are two.

Yours,
Phyllis

Phyllis Teitelbaum
Hawthorne Avenue