

University of Maine

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Meet the Dexter candidates

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Election 1985:

Meet the Dexter candidates



Melvin Wyman
Council



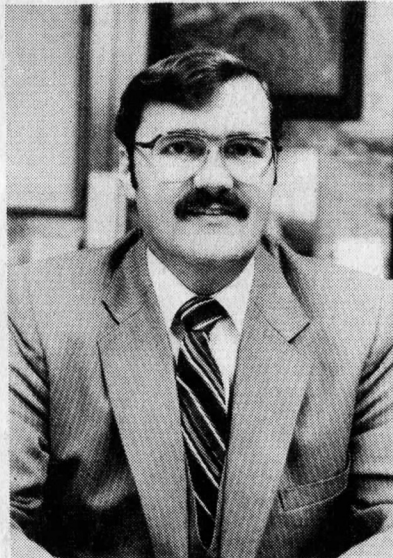
Roger Brawn
Council



Diana Bingham
Council



Steve Gudroe
Council



Donald Goldsmith
Council



Donald H. Morrill
Utility District Trustee



Dana Knowles
Utility District Trustee



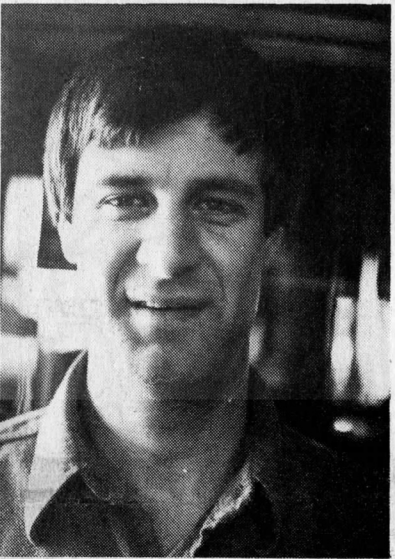
Michael Keyte
School Board



Cathy King
School Board



David Bailey
School Board



Joseph Mountain
School Board

DEXTER — This year's municipal election ballot includes a race between five candidates for two three-year seats on the Dexter Town Council. Candidates include Roger Brawn, council chairman; Melvin Wyman, also a current member of the board; Diana Bingham, organizer of the local anti-zoning movement; Donald Goldsmith, running for the second time in three years and Stephen Gudroe, a Dexter native, but a newcomer to the local political scene.

School board members Mike Keyte and David Bailey are up for re-election to their posts while Joseph Mountain and Cathy King vie for a single two-year term.

Utility district member Dana Knowles is running for re-election as is HAD 4 member Dean Thompson. Donald Morrill is also running for the three-year opening on the hospital board.

Council Candidates

Roger S. Brawn

Elected to the board for the first time in 1975, Roger Brawn has served as council chairman for the past eight years. "I've enjoyed being on the council," said Brawn recently, commenting he has "learned more each year I've been on (the council)."

On the issue of the zoning ordinance, Brawn said, "I'm not running on the zoning issue." later he added, "I have favored the zoning ordinance as it has been amended by the council in response to citizen's suggestions and complaints."

Concerns Brawn does have include the development of a strong capital improvement program that would set money to meet large expenditures without the need of raising additional funds, Brawn explained. Examples cited included the newly acquired fire engine and the purchase of a new ambulance.

Other interests Brawn mentioned were the street re-paving project when construction on the town sewers has been completed, and the proposed development of a regional airport.

Brawn was born in Dexter and graduated from Dexter schools. After attending college and teaching in other towns, Brawn returned to teach social studies and history at Dexter Regional High School where he is also the history department head. Brawn is married and has a daughter.

Melvin E. Wyman

Running for re-election, Melvin Wyman stated his reasons as, "I felt three years was time enough to learn what's going on. It takes a long time to get used to and I'd like another three years to use what I've learned."

Wyman noted taxes have remained unchanged for the past three years and a decrease has been made in welfare abuse in the community. "It seems as though we've done a fairly good job, now we have to keep hold of the handle," he said.

Wyman said the Spring Street

development project was the greatest improvement to the town in his opinion since he joined the board.

Zoning "is something that is probably going to happen," said Wyman. "the biggest thing is to see which way it is voted on in the referendum."

Saying he had mixed feelings on the issue, Wyman explained, "It seemed like a lot of people wanted it, that's why we went ahead with it. Now, they seem to be backing out. It's not that tough...it could be changed with the feelings of the majority."

A life long Dexter resident, Wyman is single. He is a member of the Dexter Volunteer Fire Department and the Dexter Business Association. Wyman owns the Audio-Video Center on Main Street, and is part owner of a Newport restaurant and lounge.

Diana J. Bingham

An associate member of the Dexter Planning Board, Diana Bingham is also chairman of the Committee to Repeal the Zoning Ordinance. Bingham considers herself a candidate for council by "public demand."

"I want to see a town grow and I want to see a good town and the improvements are only going to come with good people," Bingham stated.

"I'm running for council so the people will be fairly represented. I will listen to the people. I do listen to the heartbeat of the town," she said.

"I would like to see the laws we already have enforced...especially against drugs. I would like to see our town a safe place for all people including children. I would also like to see people have a voice in town government," she added.

Zoning has been Bingham's strongest stand and she says she's excited by the progress of her anti-zoning movement. "I'm really excited about it all...this proves you're not licked until you give up."

Bingham said at first she wasn't against zoning but rather her major concern was getting "an issue that effects the town to this extent on the ballot. I feel the people have the right to vote on something that effects all of them."

Bingham said as she learned more about zoning she became more opposed to it.

"When we talk about zoning we're talking about the basic right of freedom. Zoning restricts creativity and makes people angry to have a guardian over the property they pay taxes on," Bingham explains.

A Dexter resident since birth, Bingham has attended Beal College. She is married and has four children. She is extensively involved in volunteer work in school and churches. Bingham is employed at Perkins Laundry in Dexter.

Donald R. Goldsmith

Saying he has a "real desire to be involved in the town," Donald Goldsmith is running for the council for the second time in three years. "I have a good idea of a lot of the people's feeling," Goldsmith said.

Goldsmith stated he had "no particular interest in any specific issue," but did say, "I have a real concern for the town and really have a desire to serve."

On the issue of zoning, Goldsmith said, "I'm for zoning but not for the type of zoning proposed...I'm for the right type of zoning...the people didn't like the last one because it was so personal, it got into their homes."

Goldsmith said he would like to see the town continue to develop. "I like what the town is doing (concerning development) and would like to see more," he said.

Born in Dexter and a graduate of Dexter Regional High School, Goldsmith attended three years of Bible College and has been pastor of the Dexter Pentecostal Church for nearly four years.

Goldsmith worked for six years at Fayscott before attending college. He is married and has three children.

Stephen A. Gudroe

A newcomer to the local political scene, Stephen Gudroe said his interest in the town council peaked when the zoning issue came to light.

Gudroe spoke at a recent town gathering saying in the beginning he had been "deathly against zoning". But now his major concern is the fear of the people being "at the mercy of a town council that doesn't really care."

Gudroe told the gathering, "Personally I don't mind zoning. I'd like to know they're not going to build stores around me or dump trash on (top of) me."

Gudroe's other interests are in emergency medical services in Dexter. Training of volunteers and the need for equipment by the ambulance squad and fire department are major concerns of Gudroe.

Born in Dexter, Gudroe joined the Air Force at age 19 and served a 10-year hitch as a paramedic, raising to the rank of E-6.

Now employed at the Charleston Correctional Institute, Gudroe also farms 35 acres and lives with his wife and three children.

School Board Candidates

Michael W. Keyte

With two three-year terms on the school board, Michael Keyte is running for re-election to the seat he has occupied for three years.

"I enjoy being on the board immensely. I think we've accomplished a lot and I know I've gained a lot of experience. I have a real concern for what is being taught and how it is being taught. I'd like to make sure children are being taught in the right manner," Keyte said.

Keyte also said he is concerned with the bus issue the district is facing and the need for funding of the proposed Library-Music-Art complex, but his major interest is teaching of the town's children.

Keyte is a life-long resident of the Dexter and has two children.

David C. Bailey

Though David Bailey's intentions in August were to not run for re-election to the post he has held for two terms, "to give someone else the opportunity" lack of applicants for the position prompted Bailey to take out papers along with a re-evaluation, "I just changed my mind."

"We've got a fine school system and I think the board has accomplished a great deal in the six years I have been on the board. There are things left I still want to see done...I guess for the sake of consistency," Bailey explained, "We've got an excellent school system but it's not perfect."

A 1964 graduate of Dexter Regional High School, Bailey also graduated from Husson College in 1968. Bailey has one son, a senior at DRHS.

Joseph L. Mountain

Running for the single two-year term on the SAD 46 Board of Directors, Joseph Mountain says he really doesn't know what to expect from the first attempt to obtain an elected post, but feels he has "some ideas," and he can "help out" with decision making on the board.

Mountain says he has talked to many people about the issue of buses but feels he lacks adequate information to make a formal statement other than, "I'm under the impression the situation is real bad; we've got a lot of miles on a lot of buses and we're getting to the point where a decision has to be made."

A lifelong resident of Dexter, Mountain is married and has two children.

Cathy J. King

Also running for the two-year completion spot is Cathy King. King stated her major concern deals with what and how children are taught. "I'd like to see something more for children in need...children who are not getting what they need at home can get those needs met at school," King explained "needs" covered education as well as other aspects of children's lives.

"Kids spend from 8 o'clock to 2 o'clock at school...more time than they do at home and things they do and learn (at school) are very important and should be handled carefully," King added, "I have a great love for children, and a general concern for children. There may be something I can add to the board."

"I've had no problem with my little girl going to the school," King elaborated, "But I have heard from some people who feel the school board needs some changes. The more I talk to people the more encouraged I've become about running."

Originally from Medway, King has also lived in Portland but now resides in Dexter with her daughter.

Utility District

Dana F. Knowles

Incumbent Dana Knowles is running to retain his seat on the Utility District Board of Trustees for another three years.

Knowles has acted as treasurer for the district since 1969 and was first appointed to the board to complete three years of a vacated four-year term.

"I guess I'm running to complete the job I helped get started," Knowles said, referring to the waste water treatment system currently under construction in Dexter.

Originally from Willimantic, Knowles moved to Dexter in 1965, and owns his own accounting firm. A graduate from Northeastern University of Boston, Knowles is married and has three children.

Hospital Board

Dean R. Thompson

(photo unavailable)

After stating earlier in the fall he would not run for the seat of HAD 4 Director from Dexter, Dean Thompson has reconsidered, saying, "I'm not comfortable leaving the board at this time; there are too many unresolved issues. I had planned not to run but changed my mind because there is too much to be considered."

Thompson referred to many of the "unresolved issues," as the "marketing of the hospital," explaining, "It's really too complicated to sum up in a few words." "Marketing" involves the assurances the hospital will provide services and the process involved in going to the state for approval on health care issues.

After serving one three-year term, Thompson described his running as "sort of a personal issue. I have an interest in being part of the area and you like to be able to help where you can."

Thompson is a lifelong resident of Dexter and served on the Plummer Memorial Board of Trustees for a number of years. Thompson is married and has two children.

80Donald H. Morrill
In 1983, Donald Morrill ran for a seat on the Utility District Board of Trustees, and is currently running for position of Director from Dexter to the Board of HAD 4.

Morrill has stated, "I haven't been happy in the past with the way the hospital district has been running." Morrill says his major concern is with emergency medical care in the town of Dexter.

"We have one of the better ambulance services around," Morrill explained, but added without "around the clock care" in a Dexter emergency room, he would be fearful for victims of "heart attacks and bad accidents."

A member of Grange 155 and the Dexter Jaycees, Morrill has been recognized by local and state organizations for his involvement in the March of Dimes Walk America Project, and in 1984 acted as State Jaycee co-chairman for the charity fund-raiser.

Morrill attended Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute, is married and has a four-year-old son.

Dexter polls are open

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

at the National Guard Armory

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