



**Amy N. Haile**

**Select Board – 3 year term**

I grew up in Portland, ME with my parents, brother, and sister, then went to Northfield, MN to attend Carleton College. After graduation, I spent time in Boston figuring out what I wanted to do, which included getting my master's in education from Simmons College and teaching special education in elementary and middle school for a few years. My career exploration led me to non-profit fundraising and back to Maine where I worked first at Bates College and then the University of New England where I have been for the past 14 years.

Ten years ago, my husband, Rob, and I moved our family Henry (now 16) and Reid (now 13), to North Yarmouth. We were drawn to the natural beauty, excellent schools, and access to Portland, then were delighted by the sense of community we experienced once we arrived. I have coached several of my sons' soccer teams, served as treasurer of the Casco Bay Japan Exchange program, currently serve as treasurer of Foundation 51, and am an active member and volunteer at the Congregational Church in Cumberland.

**1. What are your qualifications for the office that you seek?**

- In my role as the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement at UNE, I work with faculty and professional staff who have varied perspectives and bring them together for the purpose of accomplishing goals around fundraising, communications, outreach, and engagement. I am responsible for the direct and indirect supervision of 10 employees and am part of the senior leadership team determining goals and strategy for the department. Externally, I work with alumni volunteers and donors across generations as both individuals and in groups to motivate and inspire them to remain connected and supportive of the University. Through all of these experiences, as well as through my own volunteer roles, I have learned and continue to learn the value of listening, genuine curiosity and inquiry, empathy, goal setting, strategic planning, patience, re-thinking, and humility. I believe these qualities will enhance my work on the Select Board.

## **2. What motivated you to run for the office that you seek?**

- Watching the increasingly hostile, zero-sum thinking seep from national conversations into local school boards, select boards, and town councils over the past few years has been unsettling for me, but I wasn't sure what I could do about it. Through a friend, I joined others to provide another perspective to the recent referendum vote in North Yarmouth. The importance of a conversation that includes more voices and more perspectives hit powerfully for me during that process, and the opportunity to do something about it came in the form of open seats on the select board. Those are the facts of why I decided to run, but the truth of why I am doing this is what I saw when I drove past the MIW school sign a million times this winter. On the sign was the quote by John Lewis, "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?". I care about where I live, where my children live, where you and your children live. I care about how we think about the future, how we include people, how we talk to people, and figuring out a way for us to do our best moving forward together.

## **3. Do you have sufficient time/energy to devote to this position?**

- I do. As a full-time working parent and partner who is active in the community, I have learned how to determine which balls bounce and which balls break when I am juggling priorities, how to manage my time, and how to ask for help in order to fulfill my commitments.

## **4. With one or two meetings a month, all boards are limited in what they can accomplish. How should the board decide what is most important?**

- I would suggest the Select Board determine the biggest obstacle in the way of moving decisions forward and focus on that. Also, with multiple committees working on town issues, the Select Board should be clear that it is working on the decisions and issues that only it can solve, while empowering other committees to be working on solutions within their scope.

## **5. Think of an issue facing North Yarmouth that you care about. Do you have a positive solution that you want to bring forth?**

- There are many issues and topics facing North Yarmouth that I am curious about and am interested in digging into more including budget management and cash flow, use of the Tax Increment Financing funds, and re-examining the various zoning districts. However, an issue that I haven't heard discussed that I am interested in is how to lower the bar of community involvement in North Yarmouth. I would like to explore how to proactively share information with community members, including decisions being made and their impact as well as opportunities, especially for folks who cannot attend evening meetings. I think our community will be enriched when there are more voices being heard and when decisions include more perspectives.