



Jane Conrad – Select Board Candidate

- Government Transparency
- Long-term Planning Based on Residents' Priorities
- Responsible Budgeting
- Collaboration with Community Partners

Our community's values, policies and priorities are set by the voters – in the Town Charter, town ordinances, and the Comprehensive Plan. The Select Board's responsibility is to steer the ship, advancing those priorities through the work of town committees and staff. Whether your priority is promoting our working waterfront, addressing sea level rise, housing, conservation, parks & recreation, or the maintenance of our landings and roads, the amount of time and energy dedicated to addressing these issues is set by the Select Board.

During my three years on the Select Board and two as Chair, I have been - and will continue to be - invested in:

Communication & Transparency. To ensure that the Select Board's work reflects the community's priorities, that you are aware of what we are doing, and that you have ample opportunities to share your views with town officials:

- the Select Board agenda now clearly states what will be discussed so residents are aware of and can participate in discussions that are important to them;
- the new Town website allows residents to sign up for text or email communications about upcoming meetings, information and receive emergency notifications;
- the new Town Facebook Page keeps residents up to date, and Select Board meetings and special events are recorded and posted on the Town's new YouTube channel for later viewing.

Long-range planning based on residents' priorities.

- I was deeply involved in the development of the Comprehensive Plan, which reflects community input elicited through 4 surveys, 30 interviews of community leaders, and multiple public meetings. The Plan was adopted by the voters to guide town leaders for the coming decade.
- I am committed to ensuring that the work of the Select Board, town committees and staff on such issues as sea level rise, housing affordability, economic development, conservation aligns with residents' priorities as laid out in that Plan.

Responsible budgeting. A responsible town budget balances the programs and services we want our town to provide with what we can reasonably afford.

- Many of the challenges facing St. George will require long-term investments. Responsible fiscal planning is essential to making progress on these issues possible and sustainable over time.
- As Chair, I am involved in every step of the town's budgeting process, as well as following the school board and county's budgeting processes, and monitor many sources of grant funding for municipalities. (The Town's portion of your 2025 tax bill was 36%, the school portion 52%, and the County 11%. Residents vote on the proposed Select Board budget at the annual town meeting & vote separately on the School Board's proposed budget.)

Collaboration with Community Partners.

- We are a small town with limited resources and cannot achieve our goals alone; we must partner with organizations that can help us advance our goals and pursue all possible sources of funding;
- Colby's new Center for Resilience & Economic Impact in Port Clyde, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association's ownership of the former Wildcat Property, workforce development programs at the Grace Innovation Center, and new housing and services provided by the St. George Community Development Corporation offer exciting opportunities for our town that require dedicated communication and collaboration. As Select Board Chair, I have built relationships with these organizations and others, to make sure that we are working together in the interests of St. George residents.

Recent projects. In the past year, I have also:

- spearheaded working waterfront panel presentations to educate residents and to support and promote our fishing and aquaculture economy;
- organized upcoming panel discussions on well and ocean water quality and septic system issues;
- advocated for regulatory changes to facilitate the construction of more affordable housing;
- advocated with providers to improve cell service in town;
- been involved in fundraising to renovate the Snow's Point recreational building;
- convened an economic development group of local leaders; and
- led the effort to complete Overlook Park at the Port Clyde Landing, a beautiful place to enjoy a picnic or watch the sunset.

My promise to you: Serving on the Select Board is a privilege and a responsibility I take very seriously. The issues that come before the Select Board range from cross walks to climate change, challenging cultural issues to celebratory parades. Such issues affect us in small and large ways. I am committed to exploring every avenue and resource to advance this community's values and priorities, to listening respectfully to every person and point of view, and to putting the community's interest first in every action I take on your behalf. The election is on May 11; town meeting is May 12, 7 p.m. at the school.