



SELECT BOARD



Thank you for allowing me to serve on the Select Board for the last six months. Betsy and I live on her family land, Bowie Farms, on Stackpole Road. We have three grown children who live in Georgia, Indiana and Buxton, Maine. For Betsy, it is a return to her roots where her father, Frank Bowie, and brother Eric were active in Town committees. I hope I bring their sense of civic duty to my service.

In 1998, I retired from the U.S. Army after 23 years followed by 23 years in the real estate development industry. In those experiences, I learned about duty, leadership, personnel, and budgets. My educational experience includes a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy, West Point, Masters of Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Masters Degree from the Naval War College in Newport, RI. I was a member of the Budget Committee, and served as the Chair of the Planning Board. I believe that these experiences and educational background prepared me for the Select Board.

There are lots of challenges to maintaining the continued high quality of services the Town provides while recognizing the impact of taxes especially on those with limited income. With the School and County having significant increases, we must continue to get the best service we can with the Town's portion of the taxes. In the next three to four years, we will deal with the impact of a revaluation of our property values. The Town needs a strong fiscal plan in place to respond to the changed property values.

At the same time, we will be revising our Comprehensive Plan. This effort will be the guide for the future we want for Durham. It will require teamwork between the Select Board, the other Boards and Committees as well as participation by all of us. Strong leadership from the Select Board will be needed to bring everyone together and work through all the diverse opinions to reach a common goal.

We have a great Town staff and need to continue to recognize their efforts and provide them the tools they need to do their work.

I have enjoyed my time working with the Select Board and Town staff. I look forward to continuing to serve you in this role. Thank you.



JOHN TALBOT