

Special Edition THE BRIDGE

Town Meeting 2022
Norridgewock, Maine

ph (207) 634-2252

www.townofnorridgewock.com

In years past, the Town has received numerous inquiries/requests to learn more about the candidates running for office— specifically, the Select Board. As a result, this special edition of *The Bridge* is being produced so that voters may be better informed as they vote in this year's Town Meeting Election of Officers. Responses were solicited from candidates for the Select Board, as well as candidates for the two contested seats on the MSAD 54 School Board of Directors.

Candidates were issued the same set of questions, given an allowance of up to 1,000 words in their response, and each was given the opportunity to submit a photo. Submissions are listed by office; candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

MEET the CANDIDATES

**TOWN MEETING
MARCH 7, 2022**

MSAD 54 School Board of Directors – Two-year term, One seat

Katherine (Kathy) Wilder

Work Experience: 2011 – Current: Operator/Tester at SAPPi Fine Paper; 2003 – 2010: Project Engineer at Cianbro

Political/Civic Experience: Currently on SAD 54 Board of Directors; Previous experience includes serving on the Norridgewock Planning Board, the Norridgewock Library Board, and the Executive Board of USW Local 9.

Why are you running? I went K-12 in the school system here and I want to give back to the community that I love.

What qualifies you? Skowhegan High School, Class of 1991; University of Maine, School of Engineering Technology, B.S. Construction Management Technology, 2003.

What is the biggest challenge facing SAD 54 Schools? The covid pandemic. Keeping our schools open so kids can continue with their education is the most important issue we face on the school board today.

How would you address that? I support wearing masks in school. It's the best way to protect both students and staff so we can steadily move forward with education.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them: The pandemic has brought untold hardship on our staff. That's why I support increasing the hourly wage adjustment for bus drivers and waiving the out of pocket fee for substitute teachers who, by state regulation, are fingerprinted during the application process.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I'm fifth generation to have grown up on a family farm in Norridgewock. I'm lucky to be able to live on the same hillside I grew up on. I'll always be a Norridgewock girl.



MSAD 54 School Board of Directors – Three-year term, One seat

Samantha Delorie, LCSW

Work Experience: Over the past 15 years, I have worked in schools in Skowhegan, Bingham, Good Will- Hinckley, and Waterville. I am currently the Interim Clinical Director for Waterville, Winslow, and Vassalboro schools, as well as being the clinician for Waterville Junior High School. As a clinical social worker, I evaluate, support, and provide therapy to students in the school systems so that they can be successful in their education. As the Clinical Director, I am tasked with working closely with the superintendents and administrators of each district to be sure the social-emotional and mental health of both students and staff are being addressed and supported. This work supports staff and students to learn the skills they need to be present and successful. As the Director, I also manage the budget, accessing grants, and managing all of the billing for the three districts.



Political/Civic Experience: When I am not working, I enjoy volunteering and sharing my passion for running. I co-chaired the committee that started the Annual Cpl. Cole 5k/half marathon in memory of Cpl. Cole, helping to raise over \$45,000. This past year I coordinated the Fun Family 5k at the Oosoola Days/Norridgewock Fly-in.

Why are you running? I have watched the struggles between the community and the school board for the past few years and I know that I have the skills to help. I want to be a voice for the students, the staff, and the community.

What qualifies you? My advanced training in conflict resolution, active listening, and crisis intervention, as well as my level-headed approach, can help bring the opposing sides together in compromise and cooperation. I know what is needed to help schools excel. From being an active community member to my vast knowledge of working in a school district, I have the benefit of seeing things from both sides.

What is the biggest challenge facing SAD 54 Schools? In these unprecedented times, I see the struggles. Staff members are burnt out, students are disengaged and resources are scarce. If not handled appropriately, we will be looking at a mass exodus of staff, leaving the district vulnerable and unable to educate the students with the skilled and dedicated staff we have now. We also need to be sure staff have the skills and support they need to address the increase in student dysregulation as well as social-emotional and academic deficits we are seeing due to the pandemic.

How would you address that? I will work with the school board and superintendent to address these issues in a way that will support students and staff as well as be mindful of the community's concerns. We need to be listening to what administrators, guidance departments, special education departments, and regular education departments are saying, what their concerns are, and sit down at the table together to bring evidence-based solutions.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them. I will address budgeting, assuring taxpayers that their money goes where it best serves the students. I also want to be sure that the schools are addressing the needs of today's students, that we are offering the best education and skills. When we put our money in the right places, we can help students excel, grow pride in their school and town, and raise well-educated citizens. The ultimate goal is to prepare the next generation with the tools, curriculum, and programs they need. My hope is that these students will become community members who have pride in where they are from and want to continue giving back to their hometown as much as I do.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I knew I wanted to raise my sons in the same small town that I grew up loving. I wanted them to spend summers floating on the Kennebec and winters sledding down the hills at their grandparents' home. This town raised me and I take pride in giving the same experience to them. I am running for the school board because as an alumnus of Skowhegan Area High School, I have great pride in my town and my school and I want the same for my boys and the current and future student population. I want my children to look back at their time in school with the same fondness and happy memories that I have. I want them to build a sense of community here and create lifelong friendships as I have.

MSAD 54 School Board of Directors – Three-year term, One seat

Morrigan Knox McLeod



Work Experience: Fifteen years working in the Maine K-12 setting: Technology administration and integration. Responsible for providing leadership, support, and professional development to staff and students. Working with and supporting District and DOE requirements/goals. Development of budget, employee benefits programs, and incentives. Troubleshooting, customer service, and direct support. Team building- coaching/mentor; focused on emotional, cognitive, mental, and physical health. Former Adult Education Teacher (Augusta, Winthrop, Fairfield).

Political/Civic Experience: Current MSAD 54 School Board member; current volunteer with WZNZ 98.1 Hootow Radio; Volunteer at the Marti Stevens Learning Center; 20+ years mentoring in Maine Schools, Corrections Departments, Addiction Recovery Centers, and Restorative Justice programs; Former Senior Advisor, School Chaperone, Volunteer HS Theater Coach; Former Co-director of Teens-n-Theater; Junior High Lacrosse Coach; Volunteers of America VOA; Volunteer with Waldo County Re-Entry Center; Volunteer with Belfast Creative Coalition; Art in Action Project & Conference 2019; RED SAND Project 2019.

Why are you running? Commitment to the well-being and education of our youth.

What qualifies you? Experience, dedication, and commitment to our youth and community.

What is the biggest challenge facing SAD 54 Schools? Keeping our schools open and our students and staff safe, despite Covid 19.

How would you address that? I would start by raising awareness in our community of the current need for Substitute Teachers, Bus Drivers, Support Staff, and Volunteers.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them: Our students' social and emotional wellness should be a top priority for us all. I would start by encouraging and supporting Mental Health, Wellness, and Creative Arts programs within the district to engage and support our learning community.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I carry the dedication and skills to help enhance our student experience and strengthen our community.

Select Board Member & Overseer – One-year term, Five seats

Charlotte Curtis

Work Experience: 23 years in the Norridgewock Town Office

Political/Civic Experience: I have served as an elected member of the Planning Board for more than 25 years, on the Budget Committee, Sewer Commission, Board of Tax Assessors, Cemetery Committee, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Voter Registrar, and Select Board Member.

Why are you running? I live in Norridgewock and love it. I want what is best for our town.

What qualifies you? Long associations with Norridgewock town government has given me the knowledge and experience with several different facets of our town.

What is the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock? Norridgewock has many challenges to face: one is providing good services to our residents while keeping property taxes reasonable; trying to balance various services with the desire to keep a rural, small-town feel to our town; trying to provide wholesome outlets for our children, which I consider very important.

How would you address that? The Select Board has been addressing all of this, along with our town manager. All things take time and planning.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? That I will always try to respond to residents with fairness and honesty.

Select Board Member & Overseer – One-year term, Five seats

Matthew Everett

Work Experience: Self-Employed Owner/Operator at 4 Seasons Home Repair & Camp Care

Political/Civic Experience: Over the past 15 years, I have been very involved in the community and in municipal government. I began by volunteering and coaching youth sports. I served on the recreation board for a few years, have been a volunteer firefighter for over 10 years, and I am finishing my 10th term as selectman.

Why are you running? I am running for selectman again this year because I enjoy what I do, and I believe that my presence has made a difference. I have learned a lot from other selectman over the years and I feel that we are really making progress. There is more to be done and I am excited to have the opportunity to be a part of it. I want to continue to develop our community and expand service while continuing to offer affordable tax rates. I am open to new ideas and change, but also enjoy the small town feel that we have now.

What qualifies you? I have lived in Norridgewock most of my life. My wife and I raised our two children here. I care about our community and the people in it. I may not have a college degree or a political background, but I have always worked hard to ensure that I was doing what was best for the community as a whole. I don't believe there is a set of qualifications needed. I think you have to be open minded, unselfish, and willing to listen.

What is the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock? Currently, the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock and all municipalities is the rising cost of goods and services.

How would you address that? I want to face this issue by exploring new economic development opportunities at our current municipal facilities and enticing new businesses to our downtown area. We can find new ways to offset costs and explore cost sharing ideas.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them: It is hard for me to prioritize everything that I envision and hope for in Norridgewock. However, my biggest priorities are bringing the sense of "community" back into our community. I want to work to find new ways to bring the community together. We have a lot of great assets within Norridgewock that are underutilized. As a board, we have already begun to work on making our public areas safer and more accessible. I want to expand further and create a cohesive "whole" town development plan. Specifically, I want to ensure that we continue to expand offerings at Oosoola Park and find ways to connect the park to the downtown area. I want to see events being held and kids playing on the playground. I want to continue to work with the Airport Advisory Committee to expand offerings there, as well. Using the airport for an additional day of "Oosoola Days" was a fantastic addition and the community responded positively.

Another priority for me is developing a plan for the Rail Trail connection to our existing recreational trails. I would like to work, as a board, with the Norridgewock Sportsmen Association to create a plan that works for a variety of recreational activities. The trail will offer a connection through many other communities and stands to create economic development opportunities as well as increased revenue to existing businesses. I feel it is important to have a direction for the project before the time comes to begin using it. We will need to work with other municipalities and create a system that is well organized. I have traveled another rail trail in Maine recently and it is a great opportunity. The rail runs through a lot of wooded areas but will also allow access to downtown areas.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I am honest and I care. I will be honest when I do not agree with projects and will always work to make sure that all demographics are served by our select board. I support the will of the voters, even if I do not agree with the outcome of a vote. I take the job of selectman very seriously even though I may not always be politically correct. I am always willing to listen and will always try to assist the people of Norridgewock where I can.



**ABSENTEE BALLOTS NOW AVAILABLE
FOR TOWN MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
Call (634-2252), stop by the Town Office, to request your ballot

Select Board Member & Overseer – One-year term, Five seats

James Lyman

Work Experience: I grew up working on my parents' dairy farm in Norridgewock and operated a small excavation business. I have spent most of my adult life working in the law enforcement field, including several years with the Norridgewock Police Department back in the 80s. I currently work at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a coordinator for Maine's impaired driving enforcement programs.

Political/Civic Experience: One of my first political/civic experiences was as a member of the Norridgewock Budget Committee years ago. My experience includes working on the committee to develop the Town's Mass Gathering Ordinance and working on several smaller, less formal committees in town. My current roles include member of the Board of Selectmen since 2014 and currently Vice Chairman, member of the Board of Assessors, and member of the Somerset County Budget Committee. I am a past member of the Skowhegan Lions Club and currently a member of the Somerset Grange in Norridgewock.

Why are you running? I enjoy being involved in local politics and shaping the future of our town. I am proud of the growth we have seen over the last decade. I believe we are headed in a good direction and want to keep that momentum moving forward.

What qualifies you? My work experience in municipal and state government, combined with experience as a small business owner, provides a diverse background to meet the challenges that face the town.

What is the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock? The biggest challenge facing residents is to ensure we can maintain the things we love about living in a small town, while improving essential services and keeping property taxes affordable.

How would you address that? The town is very fortunate to have several additional revenue streams in Summit Natural Gas and Waste Management. This extra revenue allows us some of the best roads in the area. Revenues from these sources also fund other essential projects in town. As a Board, we need to ensure that we are fiscally responsible with the town's finances to ensure we can maintain our way of life, should those revenue streams go away.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them: 1.) Improve infrastructure and potential revenue streams at the Norridgewock Regional Airport. I believe we have several growth possibilities at the airport that would bring in new business and would help financially support the airport. Key projects have been identified to bring in new businesses, improve hangars and hangar rental, and make improvements to the airport terminal building. We just need a plan to move forward with some of the upgrades. 2.) Rail Trail. The State of Maine was successful in securing the discontinued rail line running through Norridgewock. The goal is to create a public access trail (ATV, snowmobile, walking, etc.) from Oakland to Solon with the possibility of additional expansion. This is an opportunity for private business development along the trail that could benefit the town.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I have lived in Norridgewock for 58 years and tend to be a fiscal conservative. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, we have worked through many challenges over the past few years to keep resident's property taxes from increasing and some have seen a slight reduction. This is in spite of Town, County, and School costs trending upwards. We work diligently to ensure we can maintain a professional workforce to meet residents needs at a cost we can afford. Thank you for trusting me with these decisions over the last 8 years.

Lindsey Lynch

Work Experience: I started my career in business-to-business sales, then transitioned to selling specialty pharmaceuticals to physicians and hospitals for nearly a decade. I am currently a district manager for Frito Lay and have been there a little over six years now.

Political/Civic Experience: Four years on the Recreation Committee (chaired the last two), Board of Selectmen 2020 and 2021, Advisor for Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute 2020, 2021, 2022.

Why are you running? I love this town, I really do! It's such a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Right now, there are opportunities on the horizon that have the potential to make a big and positive impact in our town. I want a seat at the table to discuss new business, ways to improve our community, how to lower taxpayer burden, and how to bring new families to our town.



Select Board Member & Overseer – One-year term, Five seats

Lindsey Lynch (continued)

What qualifies you? I have been on the Board of Selectmen now for two years and professionally, I manage 20 full-time employees and 10.5 million dollars in sales every year, so I understand how to be a selectman, and I know how to run a business, but what I think actually *qualifies* me is the fact that I love this town and I want it to be the absolute best it can be. I want to maintain the small town charm and sensibility, but move us into the 21st century with business opportunities that align with our values and roots.

What is the biggest challenge facing Norridgewock? We need to develop a stronger and more sustainable tax base. All of us saw the effect that Madison Paper had on the taxpayers there. We don't want to be in that same position some day because we put all our eggs in one or two baskets, either. We need to make Norridgewock a place where businesses can thrive. We need to attract new business, as well as support the businesses that are already here in the community.

How would you address that? We need to make sure that we capitalize and prepare for the rail trail that has finally received all the approvals. Norridgewock is in the unique position of having the largest portion of the trail in our town and that opens the door to so many economic opportunities. Whether that be a new restaurant, shop, or a bed and breakfast. The possibilities are endless if the town positions itself well now before the trail is here. We need to start thinking about the types of businesses that will improve and benefit the town without taking away from the small town feel and charm. We need to be thinking about traffic flow and parking so that when this influx of vehicles and trailers show up, we are not only ready to handle it, we welcome it, prosper from it, and do that without putting a strain on the locals and their commute. Earlier in the year, the Select Board unanimously voted to hire an Economic Development Specialist. We were unlucky in this labor market to find the right fit, but I think that it is crucial moving forward that we fill that position. We need someone working in outreach to help the town find opportunities. To have someone whose sole responsibility is to help the town and local businesses is a win in my book!

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them: There has been a great start to the revitalization of the downtown. Making our downtown not only visually attractive, but also a place where people want to do business, is a top priority. I think a collaborative relationship needs to exist between the TIF Committee and the new Economic Development Specialist to ensure that we are utilizing all of the town's resources in a way to work towards shared economic goals. By working together and aligning on projects, we can get the most impact out of every dollar we invest in our local businesses. We can also utilize our development specialist to help identify opportunities that some of our local businesses may not have even known were available to them.

Our population is aging and we are not seeing enough young professionals or families moving to town. We have all the makings of a great bedroom community (low mil rate, good schools, a beautiful park, and soon we will have a public swimming area as well as great outdoor recreational opportunities with the rail trail). What we need is exposure. Our town is beautiful and has so much to offer, but unless you're from here, you may not know that. We are now members of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, which is a good start in getting us exposure, but I think we need to do more. The town-organized events like Oosoola Days and the Holiday Stroll are fun for the community, but also get the town a lot of exposure and good press. I think events that get residents outside and together with their neighbors are always a good thing, and if it gets the town some good press, all the better.

The Parks Committee did a fantastic job this year and I think everyone is excited that the Holiday Stroll will be back again for next year. It got me thinking, though. This year, the Select Board had the privilege of appointing Abigail Clare, a 6th grader, to the Parks Committee, and I can't help but wonder if some of that Holiday Stroll magic came about because they had an 11-year old girl on the Committee. I think community events are a perfect place for more of our younger residents to get involved and bring their fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the table.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? When I have not seen merit in a specific expenditure, I always try to seek out people who can offer a different opinion or point of view on the topic. I feel like taking those extra steps is the only responsible course of action when dealing with taxpayer money.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mill Stream Elementary School Gymnasium

Polling Hours: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Open Town Meeting begins at 7:30 pm



Town of Norridgewock

Town Meeting Municipal Election

March 7, 2022

Sample Ballot

Select Board Member & Overseer One Year Term Vote for no more than FIVE (5)		Sewer Commissioner Three Year Term Vote for no more than TWO (2) <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____	Library Trustee Five Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> (write in) _____
<input type="text"/> Curtis, Charlotte <input type="text"/> Everett, Matthew <input type="text"/> Lyman, James <input type="text"/> Lynch, Lindsey <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____		Sewer Commissioner Two Year Term Vote for no more than TWO (2) <input type="text"/> Keister, Ruth <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____	Library Trustee Two Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> Nicholson, Gloria <input type="text"/> (write in) _____
Tax Assessor One Year Term Vote for no more than THREE (3)		Sewer Commissioner One Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> Ames, John <input type="text"/> (write in) _____	Library Trustee One Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> Anderson, MaryAnn <input type="text"/> (write in) _____
<input type="text"/> Curtis, Charlotte <input type="text"/> Frederick, Ronald <input type="text"/> Lyman, James <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____		SAD 54 School Board Director Three Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> Delorie, Samantha <input type="text"/> McLeod, Morrigan <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____	Planning Board Member Three Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> (write in) _____
Budget Committee Member Three Year Term Vote for no more than THREE (3)		SAD 54 School Board Director Two Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> Wilder, Katherine <input type="text"/> Williamson, Jonathan <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____	Planning Board Member One Year Term Vote for no more than ONE (1) <input type="text"/> Shute, Michael <input type="text"/> (write in) _____
<input type="text"/> Keister, Ruth <input type="text"/> Lynch, John <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____ <input type="text"/> (write in) _____			

Town Seeks Federal Funding Proposals

U.S. Treasury Sets Guidelines for Funding Use

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was authorized on March 11, 2021, and provided for a large sum of money to be distributed to state, county, and municipal governments. Half of the funding assistance was granted in 2021 and the other half will be made in 2022. The Town of Norridgewock is slated to receive over \$340,000, while Somerset County expects to receive nearly \$10 million. The funds come with restrictions, in terms of what is an authorized expense. More thorough details on the program and qualified expenses are available at www.maine.gov/dafs/arpa.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

The Select Board issued a request to all staff and committee volunteers seeking proposals for projects that qualify under ARPA. A number of submissions have been received so far and the Town continues to seek qualified projects that could be considered for funding. Those wishing to submit proposals for funding are encouraged to visit www.maine.gov/dafs/arpa to learn more about qualified expenses, then submit a request through the Town Manager. Article 41 of the Town Meeting Warrant will ask for voter's authorization to formally accept these funds and to complete qualified projects. As required, any appropriation made under this authorization would first require a public hearing. ◆

TOWN REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING NO LATER THAN THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21

Once available, Town Reports will be available at the Town Office, Norridgewock Public Library, Ainslie's II, Friends Food Mart, Oosoola Country Store, and York's Market.

Norridgewock Public Library

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Norridgewock, Maine

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www.townofnorridgewock.com

The Bridge newsletter is produced quarterly by the Town Office, with the assistance of volunteers. It is intended to include articles that are of broad interest to the Norridgewock community. The primary focus is to make residents aware of what is happening in Norridgewock, in terms of community events and local government. Space-permitting, the newsletter also includes information related to local non-profits.

If you have an interest in contributing content to the newsletter, please contact the Town Office.