

Orono Council Candidates

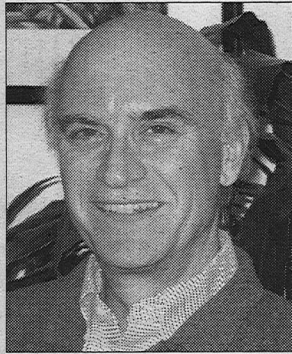
Name: GEOFFREY A. GORDON

Occupation: I am recently retired and was previously self-employed as a consultant providing technical research support, information management and statistical analysis in the fields of market research, engineering, business, education, and healthcare.

Political experience: I am completing my fourth consecutive term as a councilor in Orono.

Why are you running? I have been an Orono resident since 1981 and married to Suzanne P. Gordon for 43 years. I am seeking a fifth term this year to move towards completion on a number of important initiatives that were started in my recent years serving on the town council. As we enter a time of extreme financial challenges to traditional sources of municipal revenue, I can offer a close familiarity with the scope and cost of municipal services that is essential to the financial management economic development of our community.

What do you see as the issues locally, and how would you address them? Issues that I see as important for the future of Orono include: Developing economic and residential opportunities by continuing with an aggressive planning effort in order to achieve our goals; controlling the cost of municipal services by identifying and implementing opportunities for collaboration with surrounding communities; maintaining and improving our community infrastructure (roads, sewer, water, schools, public safety, solid waste) that we all depend on to conduct our daily affairs; improving the vitality of our Village Center by attracting more pedestrian traffic and



Geoffrey A. Gordon

bringing a new diversity to the commercial and service offerings that are found there; improving the cooperative relationship that we have with the University of Maine; encouraging economic development in appropriate areas of the community through planning activities and economic incentives; preserving opportunities within the boundaries of our community for a variety of life-styles from rural to high-density residential; preserving property values and protecting the family oriented nature of our residential neighborhoods; and completing a citizen and Council review, formulation, and implementation of Orono's Comprehensive Plan.

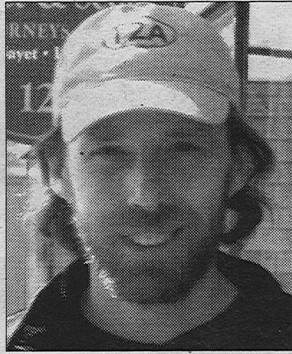
Name: DERRICK SLOPEY

Occupation: Software Engineer

Political experience: Most of my experience has been in private business, clubs, and community.

Why are you running? I want to address concerns I hear from people in my community about increasing taxation, decline of services and benefits, creeping interference in their personal lives, and ability to earn a living. I am willing to represent these people. I want to conduct a faithful debate on the Orono Council first-hand, and am offering to be the voice of concerned local people who are currently underrepresented. "There are those who just want to be left alone, and those who will just not leave them alone". I and many other people of Orono (and of Maine overall) are of the former, and the latter is grossly overrepresented in most governmental entities, Orono is no exception. I believe in minimal government regulation and maximum personal and economic freedom for the fair and responsible people that the residents of Orono are. I am not a politician and do not desire to be one. I am running to give you a choice; not because I am a great politician, but because I represent a common-sense and minimalist view on the role of government in our lives. I am willing to speak out and defend civil liberties and property rights against coercion, force, and government intrusion. Liberty begins (and ends) locally, and I am willing to make the stand for positive change in the town of Orono.

What do you see as the issues locally, and how would you address them? There are many issues locally with which Orono residents are concerned: budget, municipal security, schools, garbage collection, development, chicken permits, etc. Issues that come before the Council are currently addressed through expertise or opinion among the seven council members and municipal advisors with limited input from the residents. The town charter and ordinances seem to put very little restraint on the power of this government often leading to actions which are damaging to growth and innovation, and which may be oppressive to people's right to simply be left alone. The State of Maine's "home rule authority" allows municipalities to enact any regulations against individuals' liberties unless specifically barred elsewhere in statute or



Derrick Slopey

under a constitution. This highlights why local politics are so important. Both the Federal and State constitutions limit the government from infringing on a certain list of rights, and also declare that people have other rights which are not listed. These are the rights that the municipalities seem to deprive their residents of unless those residents are either active, or effectively represented. I am willing to defend the residents of Orono against encroachment of their liberties and earnings. The natural inclination of a corporation is to increase earnings, power, and size. I have observed over the years that as a municipal corporation, Orono has been very successful in doing this. I see a dire need for greater restraint in Orono's corporate growth in favor of the individuals who have been forced to provide this funding.

Name: DANIEL LAPOINTE

Occupation: Captain, USMM, retired

Why are you running? Business, property, and personal rights are issues that reflect our individual ways of looking at life. Without pointing out current specifics or people currently involved, I am talking about the land and one's rights and one's attitude towards it. One generation does not have the right to deny the following generations their rights and property by unchangeable contracts in perpetuity; be it a place, a home, a right for the future, wealth, happiness. And each of us must have more than just faith in our elected officials to do the right thing and obey their oath of office. The voter must use the officials' actions as a guide to their future actions and vote accordingly. Such diligence will result in better local Orono community. Orono is a community with a rich diversity of backgrounds. A wide variety of reasons brought each of us together here. All of us share a desire to live where our rights, freedoms and pursuit of happiness is individualized. Recently in Ellsworth, I was impressed with the many wonderful specialty shops and the rich economic buzz in this very small community with population much smaller than Orono's. We can replicate that booming business climate here in Orono. I believe I have the leadership ability and vision to create that environment here. I would like the Orono Observer to be printed more often to keep us informed up-to-date and ahead of all developments within the town. Effective communication creates informed residents. The inclusions of questionnaires and encouraging comments would invigorate Orono's true choices. I would encourage seniors to contribute their expertise and time supporting our town's programs. I would work with civically minded university students and high school students to create junior governments like we used to have. We would find their contributions invaluable (graduate programs, senior projects traffic studies, research and the different departments such as political science). We have tremendous new department heads; let's draw more upon their experience how



Cynthia Mehnert

to enhance our community. Curtailing town expenditures is of high importance. Reducing office expenses and rethinking automatic staff replacements makes sense. I am concerned that the new town garage with salt dome storage is not at this time an economically sound decision. For instance, New England Salt currently provides deliveries 24-7 without scheduling problems. Another option is to purchase live bed trailers (approved by EPA) like New England Salt uses to store salt. These alternatives appear more cost effective. Encouraging local business, farming and animal husbandry especially on modest personal levels improves our quality-of-life. Allowing roadside vending of services and farm produce enriches everyone.

Name: CYNTHIA MEHNERT


Occupation: Attorney, managing partner of Hawkes & Mehnert, LLP

Political experience: I am seeking a third term on the Orono Town Council. As part of Council, I have been the elected Chair of the Community Development Committee as well as the Council representative to the Orono Village Association. I have also served on several special committees for the town including the RSU 26 long term education visioning committee, the Katahdin Building Concept decision committee, and the banking subcommittee.

Why are you running? I am not a political person by nature. I am running for Council because I believe that it is important to give back to my community. Orono is a wonderful place to live. Orono is still a place where you know your neighbors and where the community takes an active role in raising its kids. It is also a town which is home to the flagship campus of the state university system. The University in our town creates a vibrant, energetic and innovative environment which adds to Orono's unique character. I want to help to preserve this special character of Orono.

What do you see as the issues locally, and how would you address them? I think one of the most challenging tasks we, as a community, face is providing the level of services that we want and expect for our community members while at the same time recognizing that we do not have unlimited resources. Many of our community members are at the limit of what they can pay in taxes. The challenge is in maximizing the services we can provide our community while avoiding increasing our tax burden. We need to preserve the unique character of Orono while developing a larger tax base. This can be achieved through developing more affordable housing to bring in young families. This can also be achieved through attracting businesses that share the vision of Orono. I look forward to working on these and other issues important to the citizens of Orono.

visit our website at:
www.
thepenobscottimes.com




MILK

You Can't Beat These Prices on IGA Milk

Whole Milk.....	\$3.96
2% Milk	\$3.80
1% Milk	\$3.68
Skim Milk.....	\$3.62

Per Gallon Cost



**University Plaza
Orono
827-0354
www.shopbellsiga.com**