

ALISON DESPATHY FOR DANVILLE SELECTBOARD 2022



VOTE on March 1, 2022

Promoting Common Ground Solutions that Respect Danville's Diverse Community

If I am elected, my promise will be to:

Five of my goals if I am elected will be to:

- *Work hard at all times to uphold and secure the Constitutional rights and civil liberties of all Danville residents
- *Listen to all concerns and opinions to find common ground that does not infringe on individual rights and offers beneficial solutions and answers for our community
- *Always be available to meet or connect to discuss any topics, even the most difficult or upsetting. I will never stray from tough conversations and can take criticism. I will work my hardest to understand situations impacting Danville residents and seek real solutions
- *Strive to ensure the legacy of Vermont traditions and the Vermont way of life including the many activities and livelihoods that are deeply connected with the land, hunting rights, land rights, and the responsible use and management of resources by the community
- *Recognize and respect at all times the diverse world views and opinions that exist within our community

- *Promote more health initiatives and education and resource opportunities for Danville residents of all ages
- *Access and promote the wisdom of Danville elders, businesses and those with skills and knowledge to help to pass this on to the children of Danville and our surrounding communities
- *Host regular community meetings/round tables to respectfully discuss and debate the tough topics and differences of opinions that exist so that as a community we can find our common ground and real solutions moving forward
- *Support and promote local businesses to help create a sustainable community in which Danville residents can access resources and services that support our local economies and communities
- *Work to make fiscally responsible decisions regarding budget and spending in order to help ensure that Danville residents can afford their taxes and continue to live in this beautiful community.

BIO ON BACK

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My name is Alison Despathy and I have lived in Danville, VT since 2001. I am currently a candidate for a one year Danville Selectboard term. It would be an honor to serve all Danville residents and work to the best of my ability to find the best solutions for our town and Danville residents. My husband and I built our home here and I am very grateful. I have three children whom we homeschool and it has been a joy to be able to see them grow and have so many adventures with them along the way. My oldest son went to Danville High School and is currently wrapping up his senior year. He has had a great supportive, experience there and as a family we are very thankful for the opportunities and guidance that have been offered to him at the school. Danville is an incredibly beautiful, community-oriented town and my intention in running for Danville Selectboard is to help ensure that the rights of all Danville residents and all of the diverse perspectives and individual world views can be supported and respected as we move forward as a community during the best and worsts of times.

My undergraduate degree was in ethnobotany and my Master's Degree was in human nutrition. I have a nutrition practice in St. Johnsbury and have taught nutrition and health and wellness classes within the Vermont State College System for over 20 years. I am incredibly passionate about health, food and personal health responsibility and lifestyles that contribute to an individual's ability to thrive. I strongly believe that all people should have access to information, resources and support to best help themselves and their families. I am an avid gardener and hiker and find joy and peace being outside in nature. I also strongly believe that Vermont has a real potential to be fully sustainable and that by working within our communities and our state we could create a truly independent sustainable system that would benefit all Vermonters and become a model for other states to emulate. We have the resources, the ingenuity and the work ethic, I believe this situation is fully possible and could make a difference for our Vermont society and economy as well as the health of Vermonters and our environment.

I also have a strong interest in and respect for history, including medical history. I spent a lot of time in Valley Forge when I was young and it has been this influencing factor that has allowed me to gain a deep understanding of the gift that we have been offered in this country. According to our Constitution and Bill of Rights, we as individuals have liberties guaranteed to each and everyone of us in this country that are untouchable and are innate. This was truly revolutionary. This was the real revolution -this perspective that humans have rights granted to them by a power higher than the state or any other human being. This was the intention, the design, the plan in order to prevent any situation that may arise from ever interfering with our rights and civil liberties and our ability to exercise these rights. Regardless of our Founding Fathers faults and the fact that they were working within a framework of their time, they were able to create a document which guaranteed individual liberties and freedoms that were to be held up and defended by our elected government officials as well as our courts of law. This was their gift to us, to all American citizens.

It is these rights, these guaranteed rights of each individual that I am fully dedicated to work to protect and secure so that liberty for all and our free society can survive and be enjoyed by our children and our descendants. These civil liberties that I will promise to defend include all of our Constitutional rights including- free speech, property rights, parental rights, body autonomy and the right to make personal, private medical decisions -free of coercion and discrimination-, hunting and gun rights, and justice and equal opportunity for all. If elected, it is these rights that I fully promise at all times to uphold and protect, to secure and fortify as we move forward so that there is space for all of the unique world views that we hold. I believe in limited government and that the role of the government is to protect and ensure that these rights are upheld for each individual. Without these rights, true freedom does not exist and the fabric and foundation of what makes our country so unique and a shining light for so many would be destroyed. We have been offered a gift, the most precious gift in history and the question is can we hold onto this gift, this common ground, through the many trials that will arise for humanity along the way. It is my intention to work hard to ensure this is the case.

“Let every man make known what kind of government would command his respect and that will be one step forward.”
Henry David Thoreau

“If a plant cannot live according to its nature, it dies, and so a man.” Henry David Thoreau”

“Educate thy people, for they are the only sure reliance for the preservation of liberty” Thomas Jefferson