

## Candidates for East Zone Director At Large

David Atkinson – Maidstone

I am a semi-retired chemical engineer that spent 20+ years in the pulp and paper industry (Wisconsin and NH). I was Vice-President of Operations (1999-2008) for the Wausau Paper Mill in Groveton NH. The Paper mill in Groveton was the largest customer of PSNH (now Eversource). I was involved in special rate contract negotiations and ultimately design and installation of a 10 MW NG fired turbine integrated with a 7 MW high pressure steam turbine. This cogeneration plant operated for eight years and was ultimately shattered due to declining paper markets and offshore competition. I chose to leave the industry so that I could remain in New Hampshire and spent seven years teaching mathematics at the local JR/SR high schools.

I have served on numerous boards during the last 30 years. First Colebrook Bank Board, Weeks Hospital Board, BIA-NH, planning/zoning (chaired many). I am currently moderator for the town of Maidstone, VT and running for an open selectmen position in 2021.

I recently retired from teaching and I'm interested in keeping my mind challenged and being involved in the community.

I have been a VEC customer for 20+ years. I moved to Maidstone as a full-time resident in the summer of 2019.

I believe the relevant issues today as it relates to electric power are:

Reliable transmission and distribution.

Competitive rates (with a significant mix of clean energy).

Incorporation of technology to aid in conservation awareness and reduced usage.

Contact information:

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Tom Bailey – Derby

At this time, I wish to ask for your vote to continue as a director of the Vermont Electric Cooperative. I believe that my past 16 years as a VEC director and my 30 year prior career experience in the electric utility industry qualifies me as a good candidate to continue as your VEC director.

The primary mission of VEC's management and directors is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service to your homes, farms and businesses. Over the past years I have worked closely with your other VEC directors to improve these functions at VEC. As we go forward, we are transitioning to a more renewable, low carbon power supply mix and exploring how we can help bring broadband to households who are underserved in our rural service territory.

A further snapshot of my relevant past experience would include a bachelor of science degree from Clarkson University in Engineering and Management and an MBA from Eastern New Mexico University. I am a veteran of the US Air Force and the Air National Guard. My further relevant experience includes 10 years on the North Country High School Board and 12 years on the Town of Derby Select Board.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank all VEC employees and fellow directors for the effective transition to a COVID safe work mode that continues to provide excellent service for our members.

Thank you for your consideration, please contact me if you have further questions at 802-766-2647.



Kristen Fountain – Albany

Hello members of the East Zone! I want to represent you on the VEC Board of Directors because I am inspired by the vision of the hard-working farmers who founded VEC 83 years ago. They understood that investor-owned companies were not going to bring electricity to them or their neighbors, and banded together to do it themselves. Today we are at the same crossroad in regards to high-speed broadband. For our rural communities to thrive in the 21st century, we must invest in bringing fiber to our businesses and homes. VEC has an important role to play, in keeping with its core mission of providing safe, affordable and reliable energy services to its members.

I live in Albany and work as a grant-writer, community development advocate and mom to a busy four-year-old. I was a journalist in Vermont for a decade, and enjoy researching and learning new things. A supporter of cooperative principles, I serve on the board of the Albany Community Trust, which will reopen the Albany General Store this spring, and am the Albany representative and Vice-Chair of Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband, our regional Communications Union District.

I work in and care for our community and would be proud to assist VEC in its continuing work to do its part. I would love to hear your questions and concerns and can be reached at (802) 586-9902 or [kristen@nekbroadband.org](mailto:kristen@nekbroadband.org).



William Gilbert – Lemington

Hi,

I am a NEK transplant that came from across the River. I grew up in the Colebrook area, and after a career as an Army logistician, my wife and I settled in 2016 to her hometown of Lemington. We love the area and doing the things that make the NEK a special place to live and raise a family. We enjoy fishing, snowmobiling, watching our girls in a variety of school sports and activities, and my favorite past-time, helping at my in-law's sugar orchard.

I work as a Procurement Manager for a power plant construction company which utilizes my background in engineering, logistics, and business management. I have had the opportunity to work on three large natural gas plants. My company also builds utility scale solar wind facilities. I have developed, negotiated, and managed contracts for engineered power equipment, materials, construction subcontracts, and services. Through my work, I learned about the industry, how to structure contracts to protect the customers, resolving contract issues, and what things should cost.

If fortunate to be entrusted with a position on the VEC board, I would strive to 1) ensure the same high level of service to members at the beginning and end of the line 2) ensure operational decisions are made considering all members, 3) bring durable, sustainable power, low-cost power to our members, and 4) take advantage of new technological opportunities (IF they benefit members).

Please email me at [William.r.gilbert2@gmail.com](mailto:William.r.gilbert2@gmail.com) for any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

