

City of Caribou

Candidate Forum - October 24, 2018



Caribou Council Candidate Forum 2018

By Charter, the Caribou City Council is elected by qualified voters of the City of Caribou at large for a term of three years each. Only qualified voters of the City shall be eligible to hold the office of Councilperson. The regular election of municipal officials is held on the first Tuesday of November after the first Monday in each year and City Councilmen are elected as follows: First City Election – two for three years and two for two years; Second City Election – two for three years. Thereafter, all City Councilmen shall be elected for three-year terms. The terms of municipal officials shall begin the first Monday of January. All powers of the City are vested in the Council except as otherwise provided by law or the City's Charter.

• 6pm: Introduction of Candidates

Each candidate will be allowed to read a prepared statement (not to exceed 2 minutes).

If candidates are unable to attend, a proxy may read their prepared statement.
(Candidates will be seated at the dais in alphabetical order)

• 6:25pm: Questions Submitted by the Public

Each candidate will be allowed up to 2 minutes to answer each question; 8 in total. The official timer will hold up a yellow card when 30 seconds remains and a red card when time is up.

1. What do you see as the greatest concern for the Caribou community? What do you see as our greatest need?
2. What do you see as the Caribou community's greatest strength? Why?
3. What are the key economic issues that need to be resolved today and how do you plan to support efforts to bring new businesses to Caribou?
4. Candidates usually say they want to lower taxes, but how would you plan to do that? Especially without cutting essential services such as road maintenance, plowing, ambulance/fire, police, recreation center activities, library etc.

5. Tell me about your commitment to small town and rural communities. What makes you want to stay and make a life in Caribou?
6. What is your interest in cultural and arts development and how much value do you place on the cultural institutions of Caribou (i.e. the Nylander Museum, CPAC, the Library, etc...)?
7. What would you do to grow “Quality of Life” in Caribou?
8. An effort has been made to replace the city's fire station (an offshoot of the Citizen's Committee work looking at options for the police station). This would more than double the outlay and push the project price to at least \$10 million.

Considering the fire station is less than 40 years old, and is in good shape, is this a want or a need? Is it wise use of city dollars? Should the city be more frugal with such massive capital outlays, and prioritize things such as fixing the washed-out River Road and maintaining existing city facilities so that they remain in good condition?

- **Questions from the audience will be permitted if time allows. Questions must be submitted on the cards provided and be asked of all candidates.**
- **Closing Statements will Immediately Follow the Question/Answer Period** (not to exceed 2 minutes each).
- **Following the event, please feel free to chat with candidates and ask further questions.**

Tonight's event is moderated by Jessica Plourde. Ms. Plourde was born and raised in Caribou. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Husson, she spent many years in Southern Maine where she owned her own business. She returned to Caribou eight years ago to raise her family and is the 4th generation to be part of the family business, Plourde Furniture, where she is a co-owner. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family. She is an active volunteer in the community, serving on the board of directors for the Caribou Economic Growth Council. She is also a former board member of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce.



Meet the Caribou Candidates

(Information provided by the candidates.)



Thomas Ayer, Thomas Ayer was born and raised in Caribou on his family farm. he is a graduate of Caribou High School and attended the university of Maine at Fort Kent. Ayer has been involved in the Planning Board as well as his role as a current Rec. Commissioner. With a family of five, Tom has established roots in Caribou and is invested in its future.

Christine Lister, Christine Lister is a passionate advocate for community and family support. As a homeschooling mother of eight and a military spouse of 19 years, she has spent countless hours volunteering her time to educate and find resources for families in need.



Christine is a committed member of the Caribou Main Street Downtown Team where her goal is to be a part of a productive push to preserve the heritage of Caribou while working to establish new paths of education and business growth. Outward migration is one of her platform focuses and she believes that a targeted approach to this well recognized problem is of absolute necessity. Christine is known to her friends as a research nerd and will often spend hours reading up on the latest developments.



Christopher J. Lydon has been a Caribou resident for 14 years. He moved to Caribou in December 2003 and became a homeowner in February 2004. For the last 21 years he has been a Federal employee and before moving to Caribou he lived and worked in San Diego County in Southern California. He has had previous elected public service experience as a Town Meeting Member (1996) in his hometown of Milton, Massachusetts. Lydon holds associate's degrees in Criminal Justice and Electronic Technology and has attended numerous training courses through out his career.

Lydon is running because he believes that if you have been successful and are able you should try to give back to your community. We have freedoms and beauty that are not available in many parts of our country and Caribou offers great potential for population and economic growth.



Jody Smith, 42, is a Caribou resident and has worked as the grounds supervisor at Caribou's Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery since 2005. Mr. Smith also has agriculture experience. He served on the Caribou City Council from 2014 - 2017 and has also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.