

January 18, 2023

Mr. Frank Porter  
Chairman – Select Board  
Town of Island Falls, ME

Dear Frank,

Effective immediately I resign my position on the Select Board.

A year ago, I reluctantly accepted the position as a write in candidate. I was encouraged that our vision to guide Island Falls to grow into modern times without destroying its unique heritage was supported by the majority of our residents. Our Select Board, Planning Board, and numerous residents spent countless hours developing an award-winning Comprehensive Plan designed to return Island Falls to a prosperous town. A plan the Town unanimously approved at a Town Meeting.

I still believe the majority of our residents support our vision, but I now realize that our current form of town government will continue to permit those with special interest to dominate decisions. Town government only works when the majority participate.

During our January 11<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting, I watched the faces of our residents as we discussed the merits of preserving our forest for future generations (key part of the Comprehensive plan). It was amusing to hear one of our residents stand and say he learned everything about the environmental impact of preserving a forest on the internet in 5 minutes. What was not amusing was seeing the heads nod in agreement on a topic we studied diligently for over a year.

Although we publicly meet every two weeks, very few attend our meetings. Although we are available to talk with residents, we only get calls about pot holes and problems with neighbors. We have no secrets. We also appear to have no support.

For the past 4 years, it has been an honor to serve as a Board Member. I mistakenly thought we could make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony", written in a cursive style.

Anthony Binotto, Ph.D.

Resident – Town of Island Falls