

Coming Up Rose

She has been a pioneer in community planning and an advocate for better government and more openness in town affairs. She has been chairman of the Aquinnah planning board for longer than almost anyone can remember. She is a retired commercial fisherman.

Now Camille Rose will add the title of selectman to the feathers in her cap, after being elected Wednesday in a tight race against write-in candidate Faith Vanderhoop. With her years of political seasoning and her thoughtful voice, this is a good time for Ms. Rose to join the board of selectmen in Aquinnah. She is the best kind of political leader, the kind the Vineyard needs more of: tough, caring and selfless, always acting with the interests of the town at heart.

Ms. Rose has stuck her neck out more than once. Several years ago she was at the forefront of crafting a townwide district of critical planning concern, a cutting-edge concept that should have been done Islandwide but never got off the ground.

In Aquinnah it worked, and today the second smallest town in the commonwealth has the strictest land use rules of any town on the Vineyard.

Ms. Rose's election this week marks her second try; she ran against incumbent Michael Hebert last year and lost by four votes. In an interview with the Gazette at the time she said: "I see a need for some change. I think that we need to see broader representation and more equal representation of everybody in town. . . . I'd like to see decisions that are made more in public and with more public input. I'd like to encourage people in town to participate more."

It is a good creed for every town.

Welcome to Ms. Rose. Her leadership skills will be a boost to the ranks of elected officials on the Island. It is of course also a plus to have another woman selectman.

Aquinnah voters made a good choice.

