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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

Fixed: Vermont Interfaith Action, Mollie Burke  
Nicely written, G.



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 House candidate wants to focus on affordability

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Quipp seeks Democratic nomination for Windham-8  
3 district on platform of housing, healthcare, safety, and making  
4 Brattleboro a place to call home

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 Daniel Quipp, a former chair of the Brattleboro  
7 Selectboard, has announced his candidacy for the Vermont  
8 House of Representatives seat representing Windham-8,  
9 following Rep. Mollie Burke's decision not to seek re-election.

10 Quipp, who works as a program coordinator in the  
11 family services department at Southeastern Vermont Community  
12 Action (SEVCA), says he is running to bring practical,  
13 collaborative leadership to Montpelier — and to keep the lines of  
14 communication open with the people he would represent.

15 “Brattleboro deserves a representative who listens  
16 carefully, works hard, and is focused on getting things done,” he  
17 says. “I’m running to represent the entire community: working  
18 people, families, seniors, young people, business owners, artists,  
19 and everyone who wants this town and this state to be affordable,  
20 healthy, safe, and full of opportunity.”

## 21 **A community-rooted resume**

22 Originally from Wrexham, Wales, Quipp has been a U.S.  
23 resident since 2011 and moved to Brattleboro in 2014, drawn in  
24 part by family ties to the area — his wife, Sarah Freeman, is from  
25 Newfane. He has been visiting the region since 2004.

26 Before joining SEVCA, where he works daily on housing  
27 and heating emergencies, around 2018, Quipp built an extensive  
28 record of community involvement.

29 He volunteered and later worked as a paid organizer  
30 with 350Vermont and [350.org](http://350.org), and he was a community  
31 organizer with Vermont Interfaith Action before the pandemic.  
32 He also served as president of community radio station WVEW  
33 for three years and as DJ there for six.

34 His six years on the Brattleboro Selectboard, including  
35 time as chair, brought him through some of the town’s most  
36 demanding recent chapters — the pandemic, significant public  
37 safety challenges, and long-range infrastructure planning. He said  
38 that experience has taught him lessons he expects to carry  
39 directly into legislative work.

40 “None of this work gets done by just one person — you  
41 always need a majority to agree,” he says. “You can’t write  
42 anybody off. You can’t behave in such a way that your

43 relationship with your fellow board members is adversarial. You  
44 have to be collaborative, and you have to listen.”

45 Quipp acknowledges that serving in the state Legislature  
46 can feel less visible to residents than sitting in a local board seat,  
47 and he says he intends to be intentional about staying accessible.  
48 He has started knocking on doors in town and hopes to sustain  
49 those conversations throughout a potential term in office.

50 He notes that monthly legislative listening sessions are  
51 already held on Saturdays at Brooks Memorial Library and that he  
52 hopes to continue participating in those community  
53 conversations if elected.

54 “When I’m up in Montpelier, my only job will be to  
55 serve the people of my district,” he says. “I think it’s really  
56 important to stay connected with constituents.”

## 57 **The issues: affordability,** 58 **housing, healthcare, and more**

59 Quipp’s campaign centers on affordability — which he  
60 describes as an umbrella issue — along with “housing, health  
61 care, safe communities, and preserving what makes Brattleboro a  
62 place people want to call home.”

63 Regarding affordability, he draws from personal  
64 experience.

65 “I grew up in a single-parent household, and we  
66 struggled to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table,”  
67 he says.

68 His daily work at SEVCA, he adds, keeps him close to  
69 those same pressures facing families today — rising rents, high  
70 energy costs, and a healthcare system he calls both overpriced  
71 and opaque.

72 Healthcare is among the issues Quipp says he would be  
73 most eager to dig into at the state level. He cites unaffordable  
74 premiums, shrinking access to providers, rural hospitals at risk of  
75 closing, and deep inequities in coverage.

76 “There are stories of people with health insurance,  
77 technically, but it’s so useless, they’d be reluctant to seek  
78 healthcare,” he says. “Some end up passing away because they  
79 don’t think they can go to the doctor.”

80 As to housing, Quipp describes a rental market in  
81 Brattleboro that has tightened to the point where families can tip  
82 quickly from stability into homelessness. He’s careful to frame the  
83 broader crisis in structural rather than personal terms, invoking an  
84 analogy he says has stayed with him.

85 “It’s like musical chairs — someone might say they were  
86 too slow and so didn’t get a chair, but really, there just weren’t  
87 enough chairs,” he says.

88 For people in housing crisis, “not one of us would trade  
89 places for one night,” Quipp says. “It’s important to have  
90 compassion and build systems that move people out of  
91 homelessness, and there are challenges in doing that.

92 “People want to paint homelessness, projecting stories  
93 on to it, but even for me, who is relatively close to it at work, you  
94 mostly don’t understand how this happened to people,” he  
95 continues. “Even focusing on the personal and not the structural  
96 is the wrong thing.”

97 Quipp cites the importance of working both with other  
98 elected officials and constituents as high on his list.

99 “I’ve always been a fairly balanced person, and I can talk  
100 to a lot of people and listen to a lot of opinions; sometimes the  
101 room is packed, and other times it’s quiet,” he says of Selectboard  
102 meetings. “But you want to be ready to hear what people have to  
103 say and be curious and ask questions. Seeking opinions as well is  
104 important.”

105 He also addresses the community’s struggles with drug  
106 trafficking and addiction with particular urgency, adding that he  
107 has had personal and family experience with the issue.

108 Quipp calls for a strong continuum of care — more  
109 recovery housing, better access to treatment, and expanded harm

110 reduction services — and pushes back against the impulse to give  
111 up on people in the grip of addiction.

112 “Folks struggling with addiction need more support from  
113 the community rather than our turning our backs on them,” he  
114 says. “We’re really doing them a disservice if we write them off.”

115 While he values Brattleboro’s scale and connectedness  
116 — “this is the smallest place I’ve ever lived, and I really love the  
117 size and connectedness of this community” — Quipp worries  
118 about isolation among lower-income residents and seniors.

119 He sees investment in public spaces and recreational  
120 infrastructure as essential to community health in ways that are  
121 hard to quantify, but easy to feel.

122 “Sometimes, when I was on the board, walking down the  
123 street, it was like a minefield, but I love knowing when I go  
124 downtown there’s always someone I know and want to have a  
125 chat with,” Quipp says with a smile.

126 “Having connected communities is good for our overall  
127 health, and then investing in recreational facilities and  
128 maintaining the land to be a benefit for all,” he continues. “Go  
129 for a walk on the West River Trail, and you’ll run into all kinds of  
130 people. It’s kind of hard to quantify how it improves people’s  
131 lives.”

## 132 **On the campaign trail**

133 Quipp will face a Democratic primary in August. He has  
134 raised about \$3,000 in his first week as a candidate — far more  
135 than anything he raised running for Selectboard — and  
136 acknowledges he is still learning the financial realities of a State  
137 House race.

138 The candidate, who is to date running unopposed, urges  
139 supporters and curious voters to reach out through his website,  
140 [danielquipp.com](http://danielquipp.com). He’s also recently started an account at  
141 Instagram at @quippforVT.

142 “I want to hear what’s on people’s minds,” Quipp says. “I  
143 hope people will connect with the campaign.”

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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