

## 2022 Precinct 6 Town Meeting Candidates

Eight to be elected, thirteen on the ballot

If no candidate profile is shown, the candidate did not submit a profile.

(\* indicates incumbent)

### Wei Han\*

### Kenneth D. Pruitt\*

tellpruitt@aol.com

**Community Activities:** Assistant Scoutmaster and Unit Committee Chair, Boy Scout Troop 503; Member, Winchester Estates Garden Club. Employed by the Town of Winchester as Sustainability Director (part of the office of the Town Manager).

#### Candidate Statement

##### What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Housing affordability – we must work to ensure that seniors can remain in town and that young people getting started in their careers can also afford to live here.

Climate change – Winchester has established ambitious goals to reduce carbon pollution and prepare for the impacts of climate change (extreme heat; more powerful storms); we must all work together to achieve these goals.

Restoring respect and courtesy – our country is more divided than at any time during my lifetime, and some of that anger and intolerance has manifested in our town. We are better than that, and must return to a place where residents can disagree without being disagreeable.

##### Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?

Climate change. A large majority of Winchester residents understand that we are facing a climate crisis and is eager to see solutions. Winchester has committed to steadily reducing carbon pollution from all sources in town and to ensuring that our community is prepared for hotter summers and more intense storms. The tools and policies needed to avert the climate crisis already exist and Winchester is putting them to use. We need to maintain that momentum.

##### What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester does many things well – we are a community filled with bright, capable and involved individuals who care about their families, neighbors and the future of our town. Town employees, and the many volunteers on town boards and committees work well together and ensure that the town runs smoothly. Winchester has a very positive reputation among Massachusetts cities and towns, and that reputation is well-deserved.

One area for improvement that I'm concerned about is the recent decline in civic spirit and neighborliness that many of us have observed over the last handful of years. As I wrote an answer to a previous question, our country is more divided than at any time during my lifetime, and some of that anger and intolerance has manifested in our town. We are better than that, and must return to a place where residents can disagree without being disagreeable. A wise friend once observed "Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." We need to be more patient and generous with one another.

**Do you support the proposal to build a stand-alone administrative building for the Winchester Public Schools, to be developed by restoring the Carriage House adjacent to the Sanborn House?**

I definitely support a permanent home for WPS administrative staff that fully meets their needs, now and into the future. The Carriage House location would meet those needs, but it is quite expensive for the number of staff that would be located there. I have mixed feelings about this proposal and will make my decision once further study has generated more specific plans and cost estimates.

**Anthony Cucinatti**

My name is Anthony Cucinatti and I am a candidate for a Town Meeting seat in Precinct 6. I am a proud product of the Winchester Public School system as are my two daughters. For a number of years, I had the privilege of giving back to the Community being involved in youthsports; Soccer, Hockey and Basketball. I am currently a member of the Winchester High Hockey Alumni Association, coordinating and participating in an annual Alumni fundraising event. I would like to continue being involved in the Community by participating in Town Meeting.

It is important that our Community continues to grow and evolve from the solid foundation that has been established over the years. I believe that the success of Town Government hinges on fiscal responsibility, accountability, transparency and communication while effectively collaborating with all members involved to achieve the common goals and objectives that will enable the Community to prosper and set up future generations for success going forward.

I am most passionate about fiscal responsibility and education. A town that can provide a modern and efficient infrastructure along with a well-supported school system represents a strong town that is set up to meet the needs of all citizens in the Community.

I seek this opportunity to continue to give back to the Community that has given so much to me over the years. If given the opportunity, I will make a positive impact on the Community in the Town Meeting role while accepting accountability and providing transparency.

**Jack Lemenager\***

j.lemenager@comcast.net

**Community Activities:**

- 12-year member of Town Meeting
- 13-year member of Winchester Historical Commission
- Long-time chair of Winchester Historical Commission
- As Historical Commission chair, I have served in numerous ad hoc committees including those involved in the new train station design, Wright-Locke Farm, the Waterfield Lot project, McCall Middle School renovations, the Sanborn Carriage House, etc.
- Resident of Winchester for 33-plus years, active over the years in many different community and school programs

## Candidate Statement

### What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

- **Town budget:** The town needs to live within its means without regularly going to the taxpayers for Prop 2-1/2 overrides. Taxpayers' take-home pay is not keeping pace with the current 7.5% rate of inflation, so we can't expect them to keep paying an ever-increasing amount on their property taxes.
- **Affordable housing:** The town is under the gun to increase the number of affordable housing units demanded by state law 40B. But we need to be smart about that and work closely with developers to ensure that the subsequent projects are appropriate for the town in terms of size, scale, location, and style.
- **Commercial real estate:** Town leaders need to be more creative in identifying opportunities for rezoning (e.g., north end on Main St.) to enable more commercial development to help ease the tax burden that is overwhelmingly on residential property owners. The Planning Board continues to make efforts in this regard. Town Meeting members need to understand the value of such efforts and support them.

### Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?

- **Budget:** Town Meeting too often acts like a rubberstamp on the annual budget. While the Town Manager and Finance Committee should be commended for their hard work in keeping the budget within our means, Town Meeting members must fully appreciate that every budget line item increase adds up to increasing tax burdens on taxpayers. Town Meeting members' primary job is to be fully apprised of increases and be ready to fully justify their support or opposition.

### What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

- **Volunteers:** The town is very fortunate to have so many quality people who readily and continuously give generously of their own time for elected and appointed positions to manage town government. This is Winchester's greatest asset, and always has been.
- **Information:** The challenge, however, is keeping the town's citizens well-informed and engaged with regard to the important issues and decisions being faced by Town Meeting, Select Board and other elected and appointed boards.
  - Existing media to reach the town's citizens in 2022 is woefully lacking. The *Winchester Star* is no longer a local paper of any value. The Winchester Residents Facebook page is about the best we have for current information, but is susceptible to endless, pointless arguments, and dependent on active engagement by both information sources and recipients.
  - Solution: Town leaders need to identify as many viable communication channels as possible and use them all to keep citizens apprised of the key issues facing the town.

### Do you support the proposal to build a stand-alone administrative building for the Winchester Public Schools, to be developed by restoring the Carriage House adjacent to the Sanborn House?

- **Yes.** The schools' administrators must be housed somewhere. Their occupancy of Parkhurst School was always intended as a temporary location. It is and always has been an inefficient use of that space, which is best used as temporary classrooms during renovation of other schools, such as Ambrose, McCall, and V-O in the recent past and Lynch in the near

future. Others have suggested that Parkhurst might serve as a “Sixth Grade Academy” to ease crowding at McCall.

- As we plan for the replacement of Lynch School, some have suggested that the administrators could be housed there as they were in the past. But just as the Carriage House approach would not be eligible for state funding, neither would the necessary build-out at Lynch. Additionally, housing administrators within a school building creates security issues for that school with the comings and goings of assorted visitors typical of school administration offices.
- Others have suggested renting space. First of all, finding satisfactory within the town is highly unlikely. More important, the cost of rent would likely be amortized over the course of 20 years in the Carriage House. And at the end of the lease, they would still have to be housed somewhere – i.e., the challenge is not going to go away by simply postponing a solution. The Carriage House itself is already owned by the school system. It is a solid building that merely needs updating (electrical, plumbing, insulation, etc.) and renovated to bring it up to code and make it usable for everyday occupancy. Its proximity to Ambrose is an added advantage, while not within the school itself. While the initial cost may seem exorbitant, looked in the longer view of its usable life of many decades, it's a bargain.

### **Emanuel D'Ambrosio, Jr.\***

md10nassau@verizon.net

#### **Community Activities**

. Current Town Meeting Member - Precinct 6 since mid-1980's

- Current Government Regulations Committee Member

Past member of Finance Committee Past member of Rules Committee Past member of Water Systems Review Committee Past member of "Keep 5 Alive" Committee (this group fought to keep Vinson-Owen School open when the town, for budgetary reasons, was considering closing the school in the mid 1980's)

#### **Candidate Statement**

##### **What Winchester issues do you think are most important?**

- Support our schools to maintain our excellence in education

Maintain the town's Triple A Bond rating

- Control 40B development within the community while meeting the state's requirement for affordable housing

##### **Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?**

There has been a lot of talk about 40B development and the concerns the town has about the developer's ability to circumvent the town's by-laws through state regulations. I would push the town to further adopt 40R and 40S Regulations. This would be a winning situation for both the developer and the town. I have already provided the Town Manager with a 3-Ring Binder of the various aspects of both 40R and 40S Regulations. This would help in securing affordable housing for Winchester. I want seniors in the town to be able to remain in Winchester and not feel pressured to leave due to financial concerns.

**What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?** Both town management and community volunteer groups work well together to maintain a beautiful town

Attract additional commercial and industrial businesses to offset the high-cost residential

property taxes.

**Do you support the proposal to build a stand-alone administrative building for the Winchester Public Schools, to be developed by restoring the Carriage House adjacent to the Sanborn House?** The Carriage House is an asset of the town, and it is of historical significance. This property would make an ideal location for the school administration because using school space for administrative staff is not part of the calculation in the state's financial aid to schools. With proper architectural enhancements, the Carriage House would allow maximum flexibility in future usage.

## **Audrey Coyle Siciliano**

ajsiciliano@me.com

### **Community Activities**

- Winchester Girl Scout Troop Leader (2015-present)
- Winchester High School Parent Faculty Newsletter co-editor (2021-present)
- Chair of Vinson-Owen Before and After-school Enrichment programs (2012- 2020)
- Parent representative on WPS Committee on Student Success and Well-being (2020)
- Parent volunteer/organizer at various school and youth sports events (field days, book fairs, Mentor Program, Veterans' Day tournament, Nutile baseball tournaments) (2009-present)

### **Candidate Statement**

#### **What Winchester issues do you think are most important?**

- Maintaining the academic excellence of our schools
- Supporting local businesses by responsible planning and development of the Town Center
- Evaluating and planning for impact of large infrastructure projects and related maintenance (roads and sidewalks, school-related maintenance projects, Transfer Station improvements, Train Station renovation)

#### **Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?**

It is critical to address the town's infrastructure projects through a process that is fiscally responsible, sustainable, and innovative. Sensible planning for and investment in maintenance and improvement to roads, schools, transportation, affordable housing stock, energy consumption, and business development will position Winchester as an attractive community for the future.

#### **What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?**

The DPW, residents, and community groups together have done a wonderful job maintaining Winchester's appeal as a beautiful and enjoyable place to live and work. The public parks, playgrounds, playing fields, landscaped intersections, and charming downtown are well maintained and used by Winchester residents of all ages as places to engage as a community.

I do think our busy town would benefit from safety improvements such as traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian accommodations via crosswalks, and better visibility in intersections. It is also important to anticipate and respond to the impact of large-scale construction projects on traffic flow around town to ensure the safety of residents.

**Do you support the proposal to build a stand-alone administrative building for the Winchester Public Schools, to be developed by restoring the Carriage House adjacent to the Sanborn House?**

At this time, I am in support of the proposal to restore the Sanborn Carriage House to house the Central Administration Offices for the Winchester Public Schools. Much work has already been done over many years by prior Town Meeting sessions, School Committee, and architects and consultants to evaluate locations for the Central Office. Fall 2021 Town Meeting approved funds to confirm and better define the estimated construction plans and provide a report to inform a funding discussion at Spring 2022 Town Meeting. A vacated Parkhurst School will better support the community as it can be fully utilized as swing space during the construction of the new Lynch Elementary School, and an effectively designed and located Central Office facility will help Winchester attract/retain the quality public education administrative staff that is needed to maintain our academic system.

**Karen Bolognese\***

Karen Bolognese is also a candidate for School Committee.  
kmaruyam@umich.edu

**Community Activities**

Winchester School Committee:

2021 – present: School Committee Chair

2019 – present: Member

Other SC committees: Policy Subcommittee Chair, Curriculum Subcommittee Member, Negotiations, Liaison to Vinson Owen Elementary School, Winchester High School, and Parent Inter-School Council

Vinson Owen Elementary School:

2021 – present: Overall Enrichment Coordinator

2020 – present: Traffic Duty Volunteer

2016 – present: International Night, Co-Chair

2014 – present: Enrichment Coordinator for two grade levels

2013 – present: Science Park & Butterfly Garden, Co-Chair

2012 – 2014: School Council Member

McCall Middle School:

2021 – present: Enrichment Coordinator

2017-19 School Council Member

Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association, Member

Town Meeting

2012 – present: Member

Winchester Community Music School:

2020 – present: Governance Committee, Chair  
2021 – present: Equity, Diversion, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee: Member  
2018 – present: Board of Trustees, Member

Japanese Language School of Greater Boston:

2013 – 2021: Kimono Club, Culture Festival Volunteer, Parent Association

Professional Memberships:

American Veterinary Medical Association, Member since 2009  
American Association of Equine Practitioners, Member since 2009  
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association, Member since 2018

Interests: Family, Japanese language & culture, travel, dressage, sports, music, food

**Candidate Statement**

**What skills and experience would you bring to the School Committee?**

I have served on the School Committee the last three years, including as Chair and Vice Chair. I have worked hard to lead a collaborative and thoughtful team and process -- driving sustainable policy, curriculum, and fiscal responsibility. It takes time and effort to build relationships with school and government organizations and to understand the issues and nuances. For two of the last three years of my term, the pandemic has had a profound effect on our community. As we emerge from this, I'm running for reelection to bring consistency, level-headed leadership, and the knowledge I've gained to help our district focus on long-term planning and to enable all our children to reach their full potential.

In addition, I bring my experience from Town Meeting since 2012; international experience in Tokyo, Japan, as an interpreter / translator for a major Japanese life insurer; and as Assistant Vice President of Finance with Ford Motor Company's start-up in the Philippines.

**What current issues facing the Winchester Public Schools do you think are most important?**

I believe that we must do everything to support students' mental health, especially post-pandemic, and continue our detailed planning efforts for a successful Lynch Elementary School building project.

**Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?**

None of us could have imagined we would be dealing with a global pandemic that we would need to provide more social emotional support than ever to help our students emerge from this pandemic. I'm proud to have increased student support by hiring a Dean of Student Life, additional nurses, counselors, and programming for our students at all grade levels and development. While we have a lot done to help our students, the work needed to fully recover from this pandemic is not over. We need to ensure that fiscal responsibility, a strong curriculum, and diverse, inclusive schools are the foundation of post-pandemic student life. I will also continue to support and advocate for long-term district planning and responsible budgeting to make sure the needs of our children are met so our community can emerge from these COVID years better than we were before.

**What are the long-term challenges facing the Winchester Public Schools?**

I believe the new Lynch Elementary School must be built with a fiscally responsible plan to keep the project on time and on budget in order to meet the 2025 timeline. We must also maintain our

long-term strategic visioning and planning for the Winchester Public Schools so our community can rely on a transparent, responsible process to ensure a bright future for our school system

## **Karren Silver Nys\***

## **John B. Miller\***

[jbmiller@ironsidestrategies.com](mailto:jbmiller@ironsidestrategies.com)

### **Community Activities:**

1. Member of Finance Committee, EFPBC, and Town Meeting
2. Three children all WHS grads – youth and Varsity sports, Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra.
3. Past President of Winchester Youth Basketball Assn (Now WBA)  
(Led effort to rebuild Manchester Courts in 2002; 500+ boys and girls each year)
4. Member, *2000 Facts Committee* convened by Select Board, Chaired by Alan MacDonald
5. “*Winchester By The Numbers*” 2018-2021 – on WinCam (the only compilation of Town revenue, expense, debt, unfunded liabilities from 1982 to present)

### **Candidate Statement**

#### **What Winchester issues do you think are most important?**

1. Prudent fiscal management by elected/appointed officials on behalf of Town Meeting.  
(Effective performance of our existing obligations to one another, before new obligations)
2. Renewed emphasis upon excellence in basic education of Winchester children (math, science, reading, writing, music, sports, art at the highest levels students can achieve).

#### **Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?**

Of equal importance. Town Meeting needs to help the Town and Schools maintain focus on core obligations – financial prudence and excellence in core education.

#### **What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?**

It allows families of all backgrounds to flourish in the Town’s unique environment.

#### **Do you support the proposal to build a stand-alone administrative building for the Winchester Public Schools, to be developed by restoring the Carriage House adjacent to the Sanborn House?**

No. The proposal is unnecessarily expensive. This is not a prudent use of taxpayer funds. Lynch and Muraco should precede a separate new building for administration.

## **Taylor Tinmouth**

taylor@tinmouth@gmail.com

### **Candidate Statement**

Thanks for taking the time to learn about my interest in Town Meeting.

My husband, Leigh, and I moved to Winchester four years ago and feel fortunate to be raising our three children (ages 5, 3, and 8 months) in this beautiful town. We are members of St. Eulalia's, our children participate in town sports and activities, and we support FAN and the Network for Social Justice. When our eldest son starts Kindergarten in the fall, he'll be attending Vinson-Owen.

Leigh grew up in Precinct 6, so we were already familiar with Winchester's excellent public schools, vibrant downtown, and proximity to both Boston and The Fells. But when deciding where we wanted to put down roots for our family, it was the strong sense of community that made our decision an easy one. We've felt so welcomed since the day we moved here. I'm running to do my part in ensuring that future Winchester residents experience the warmth, inclusion, and top-notch opportunities that make our community special.

We need to embrace solutions that expand our commercial tax base; increase our affordable housing stock; and ensure that our buildings, transportation options, and town as a whole are on track to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. With a thoughtful approach, these steps can be mutually reinforcing, and everyone in town will benefit.

My 16-year career in research and consulting—including the past seven years working in the Social Impact and Sustainability practice at Boston Consulting Group (BCG)—has taught me the importance of welcoming a broad variety of viewpoints and engaging all stakeholders when making decisions. The challenges of the past two years have further highlighted the importance of working together and protecting the vulnerable amongst us. I will take these lessons with me when representing our neighborhood and support efforts to keep our families, friends, and neighbors thriving.

I would appreciate your vote on March 19 and hope to meet you soon.

## **Richard A. Michienzi**

## **Patrick Matteson**

Patrick.Matteson@gmail.com

### **Community Activities**

Winchester Finance Committee (2021 to present)

Volunteer Basketball Coach, WinRec – (2021 to present)

### **Candidate Statement**

My name is Patrick Matteson and I am running for Town Meeting Member in Precinct 6. My wife Barbara, our three daughters (7 and 3 ½ -year old twins), and I moved to Winchester just over

three years ago. Like many others who have moved to Winchester, we were drawn by the strong public education system, beautiful town center with many local businesses, and proximity to nature and outdoor activities. It is, however, the residents' strong sense of community that makes us feel fortunate to establish our family roots here.

In 2021, I was appointed to the Winchester Finance Committee which has given me a great opportunity to better understand the inner-workings of Town Government, as well as serve beside diverse, smart and respected members of the Community. In addition, I have volunteered my time with the Kids Corner after-school program, as well as volunteering as a girls basketball coach with the Winchester Recreation Department.

I am running for the position of Town Meeting Member to be able to contribute to the direction of Winchester as we navigate out of this pandemic and the years ahead. There are a number of important issues that need immediate attention, such as the proposed Carriage House renovation which I believe requires a more thorough evaluation of alternatives before committing \$6,000,000 of the Town's money to such a project.

I have worked in Finance for the last 16 years with experience ranging from small community banks to some of the largest wealth managers in the country. I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island and an MBA from HEC Montreal. My friends and colleagues would say that I have a strong analytical mind, work well with others, and am focused on finding solutions and compromises. I also "know what I don't know" and am proactive in seeking out advice and counsel when needed.

As Town Meeting Member, I will leverage my professional experience and personal background by making informed contributions and reflecting the goals of Precinct 6 residents. If elected, I will work towards our shared purpose of further enhancing Winchester's strong reputation and ensuring it is a great place to live for all residents.

As an involved parent of three young children, I am deeply vested in ensuring Winchester has a bright future, a strong public school system, and a unified community. It would be an honor to be one of Precinct 6's Town Meeting Members. I hope to have your vote on March 19th.

## **Dorothy R. Simboli\***

### **Community Activities**

Town Meeting Member 2016-Present Board of Appeals 2016 – Present Communications Study Committee 2022

### **Candidate Statement**

**What Winchester issues do you think are most important?** I believe that Town Planning, especially the Town Center and our commercial districts are most important. Diversity of housing, traffic, fiscal prudence, and schools are extremely significant. Also, having a tightly woven community that is respectful and welcoming of all backgrounds and perspectives is a major key, as well as a Town government and administration that is responsive to its residents.

**Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?**

As a Town Meeting Member, I feel strongly that I should understand the perspectives of my constituents and represent their thoughts and interests in addition to the Town when serving Precinct 6

**What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?**

Winchester does so much well including, but not limited to its services including the DPW, police, fire and ambulance; the transfer station, all of the Town employees who go above and beyond every day and are a pleasure to interact with; its schools, which maintain high academic standards and seek to improve (and do) each and every year, while operating at a low per pupil spend and fiscally conservative budget relative to other districts; its VOLUNTEERS, especially in Town governance and community organizations and who devote countless hours to make this community a welcoming and vibrant hometown for all.

Issues that could be improved are retaining entry-level/empty-nest homes and developing other forms of affordable housing, especially senior housing and housing for Town employees. Also, long-term planning, budgeting and forecasting relative to the ever-increasing school enrollment should be emphasized. Winchester should also work on creative planning and a vision for increased commercial development (to relieve some of the tax burden of our residents, especially our seniors). Traffic safety and parking, especially in the Town Center has been improved recently, but with increased growth, this is an on-going concern. Creating better avenues for communication to and from the residents is a recently highlighted concern and one that will hopefully be improved in the future, as well.

**Do you support the proposal to build a stand-alone administrative building for the Winchester Public Schools, to be developed by restoring the Carriage House adjacent to the Sanborn House?**

I do support the Carriage House renovation. This renovation accomplishes multiple goals. First, it will preserve a historic structure. It also ensures that school administration will not occupy existing school space needed for classrooms and teachers. Lastly, the Select Board advised Town Meeting that there will be opportunities to lease Parkhurst (where school administration is currently housed). Leasing Parkhurst would bring in additional revenues, while also retaining a valuable piece of real estate that might be needed for long-term future school or other Town needs.