

## **2022 Town Moderator Candidate**

One candidate to be elected for one year (\* indicates incumbent)

### **Heather R. von Mering\***

Precinct 8

I have had the honor of serving as Town Meeting Moderator this past year and presiding over our twice-annual Town Meetings. Town Meeting brings together the many volunteers in government in one space to work, discuss, and debate the critical issues and challenges facing the Town. There is wisdom and knowledge embedded in the 192 Town Meeting members, but also in all areas of our Town government, be it the Finance Committee, the schools, or the many town departments like Town Manager, Building, Engineering, Town Clerk, Public Works, Police, and Fire, to name a few. I strongly support our Town Meeting process and our local democracy, which enables the direct and active engagement of our citizens to drive Winchester forward and creates opportunities for all voices to be heard.

I have been a volunteer and leader in Winchester town government for over a decade. Prior to being elected as the Moderator I was the Chair of Winchester's Planning Board, a member of Capital Planning, and participated on behalf of the Planning Board on many committees. I also served on the Historical Commission as the Chair and Vice Chair. I am also currently a Town Meeting member (representing Precinct 8).

In our community, I have been a volunteer for the Winchester Historical Society and a math and science tutor for Winchester Public Schools. I currently coach for Winchester's Youth Girls' Hockey Program and I'm a strong advocate for children with language-based learning disabilities. I live in the north end of Winchester with my husband Fritz and our five children, who are fifth generation Winchester residents.

I am a graduate of the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture and have been working in the building and design industry since 2000. Currently I'm the Vice President of Von Salmi & Associates, which provides homeowners, builders, legal teams, and insurance companies with construction forensic services. My expertise is in architecture, design, historical and zoning regulations, and the financial components of the residential building industry; and I have served as a qualified construction expert in Massachusetts courts. I have always found tremendous joy managing the construction of residential projects in the New England region for my clients.

I hold a Home Improvement Contractor's registration (HIC) and a Construction Supervisor's License (CSL), am a Fellow Emeriti of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, have my 30-Hour OSHA Construction Certifications, and hold a real estate salesperson license.