

Board of Health Candidates

One to be elected of three candidates

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

Maureen Quill Pimentel

Experience

Nurse Practitioner Boston Children's Hospital: Current

- o Coordinator of Liver Transplant Program,

- o Coordinator/Partner of the First Ever Pediatric Hand Transplant Program

- o Nurse Practitioner General Surgery

Donation Coordinator New England Donor Services: 7 years

Staff Nurse Massachusetts General Hospital: 5 Years

Contract Tracer Winchester Department of Public Health: Current

Substitute Nurse Winchester Public Schools: Current

Adjunct Professor Regis College School of Nursing: Current

Board Member Winchester Got Lunch: 1 year (member of the team for 2 years)

Board Member Winchester Youth Soccer: 5 years

Coordinator TOPS Soccer: 1 year

Active Parent in the Ambrose School Community – 6 years

Candidate Statement

My name is Maureen Quill Pimentel. I grew up in Winchester and moved back 16 years ago to raise my family and rejoin the community I loved as a child. For the past eleven years, I have been a practicing primary and specialty healthcare as a Nurse Practitioner and prior to that worked for a decade at a number of Boston hospitals in multiple nursing and healthcare provider roles.

Throughout my career, I have focused on many critical issues facing communities like Winchester, including mental health, elderly care, health care equity, food insecurity, and patient advocacy. The current Pandemic heightened these issues and required healthcare workers to plan differently from the past in addition to focusing on the future. I pride myself on helping people to solve problems pragmatically while also ensuring effective and efficient execution.

When COVID hit last March, I felt compelled to support our community in any aspect necessary. First, I worked with Winchester Got Lunch to ensure school children in need would receive their meals when schools were shut down. Second, I contacted the Winchester Department of Public Health to see how I could assist and began to provide contract tracing services for the town. Lastly, I worked as a substitute nurse for Winchester Public Schools to ensure all children have access to care while at school. I am an active board member of The Winchester Soccer Club and The Winchester Got Lunch organization. I am also actively engaged within the schools and charitable events. Friends, family, and community members frequently enlist my assistance as a resource for addressing, diagnosing, and solving their personal healthcare issues from the simple to the complex.

I believe my qualifications as a Nurse practitioner, my experience coordinating Health Care Programs, and my first-hand knowledge of pandemic protocols makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the Board of Health. I hope to effectively assist the board in

garnering practical, real-world solutions that will most effectively keep our town healthy and safe. I am passionate about leveraging my skills to help others, and if fortunate enough to become a member of the Board of Health, I will be able to expand my ability to make a positive impact in our great community.

Ruth E. Trimarchi

Background

- Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Vassar College; Master of Education in Science, UMass Amherst
- Extensive laboratory research experience in molecular biology: Harvard University Biolabs; Ghent University, Belgium, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology; New England Biolabs
- High School science teacher thirteen years
- Mother of two and grandmother of three

Community Activities

- Climate Action Advisory Committee, Chair
- Town Meeting Member
- Climate Action Plan Committee, Co-Chair which developed Winchester's new 2020 Climate Action Plan
- Supported Winchester Town Departments in writing five climate grants; two awarded
- Cultural Council member
- League of Women Voters Member
- Winchester Trails Leader
- Led a large team through a complex two-year process to successfully change the Winchester Town Charter, changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Select Board
- Developed a successful business for Wright-Locke Farm as the Manager of Flower Operations for four years
- Led large teams to co-host seventeen public climate events, collaborating with the League of Women Voters, Schools, Wright-Locke Farm, Network for Social Justice, Farmers Market, Winchester School of Chinese Culture, Public Library, Sustainable Winchester, Council on Aging and many others
- Currently overseeing development of a "Policy Statement on the Climate Impact of Heat" for the Town by a CAAC Intern working closely with Winchester's BOH and DPH to for his Master's degree in Public Health

Candidate Statement

Why are you running for office?

The Board of Health works closely with Winchester's Department of Public Health on issues of the environment and public health. I'm running for the Board of Health to:

- support the existing Board of Health members and Department of Public Health to build a healthy, sustainable Winchester

- tackle a wide range of issues that the Board will face over the next three years, from COVID to the health impacts of climate change
 - bring critically important strengths in environmental issues, and a complementary balance to the makeup of the Board by drawing on my strong backgrounds in science and education
 - communicate Board decisions to the public that impact health in Winchester
- COVID19 is the most critical issue the Board of Health faces in the immediate future. As a member of the Board, I will continue to focus on implementing CDC and MA State guidelines to address this pandemic, while simultaneously planning for transitional-COVID and post-COVID new realities. However, I'm not a single-issue nor a single-year candidate, and there are many other challenges that the Board will address during this term in office.

I have been fortunate over the past several years to have a significant impact in multiple areas of the Town, from climate action to equity issues for the name of our Select Board. I have demonstrated my ability to effectively work across wide sectors of town with volunteers, staff, elected officials and community groups and will bring a breadth of experience and knowledge on a range of issues to the Board of Health.

As Chair of our Town's Climate Action Advisory Committee, I led a team of 26 people on three different Town-appointed Committees to write the newly-released Winchester 2020 Climate Action Plan and to host 17 separate climate events for the public. The Climate Action Plan has significant applicability to issues of public health in Winchester. I am confident that I will bring leadership to the Board's efforts to implement these health aspects of the Climate Action Plan. As a Town Meeting member, League of Women Voters member, Winchester Trails Leader and serving in several other capacities in our Town, I am committed to now applying my skills and experience to serving on the Board of Health.

What are the primary responsibilities of the Winchester Board of Health?

- "The environment and public health." (MGL c.111 s.26-33 and Winchester Town Charter p.9)
- It is to be noted that recently (6/19), the MA "Report of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health", outlined how the role of Local Boards of Health needs to evolve significantly: "In the 21st century, their list of duties has ballooned"
- Communicable diseases, food safety, recreational facilities including public pools and waterways, burial grounds and other historically critical concerns will continue to be Board of Health responsibilities
- Health impacts of climate change; mental health care; gender equality; obesity; growing incidence of asthma and heart disease; emerging new tick, mosquito and rat-borne diseases; extreme heat and cold; bacterial and algal blooms that close our beaches; equity issues and more
- Communications through appropriate venues for all sectors of the community through new and enhanced communications systems

How could the Board of Health services be improved?

Over the next three years:

- Climate actions to build a more resilient Winchester will be part of what the Board of Health will aggressively address. Winchester urgently needs to prepare for an increase in high heat days; vector-borne illnesses; bacterial and algal blooms that close our beaches; extreme storms and impacts of carbon pollution. Climate change brings many new opportunities for building a more resilient Winchester
- Enhanced communications with the public will expand along with the expanding role of

local Boards of Health. I am intending to explore options for informal quarterly public forums, webinars, newsletters and other venues focused on 'Conversations with your Board of Health'. As Winchester adopts and supports an improved infrastructure for informing, educating and engaging our community, the Board of Health will access these communication options

- Regionalization of some aspects of health care delivery could open new opportunities for Winchester residents

How has the Board of Health met the challenges of the pandemic this last year and what should be the focus going forward?

- It has been my observation that over the past year Winchester's Board of Health has worked closely with Town Government, the State, the Winchester Hospital, Schools, Public Library, businesses and the public to listen and to respond appropriately as the pandemic forced evolving levels of protection and lock-down. The Board of Health and the Department of Public Health have been stretched in coping with this unprecedented public health crisis over the past 12 months
- Going forward, as a member of the Board of Health I will continue to follow CDC and MA State guidelines to protect our community. As the pandemic is brought under control through vaccine administration and continued use of masks, social distancing and testing to isolate outbreaks, the Board can focus more attention on communications regarding variants, a transitional-COVID situation and eventually a post-COVID new normal.

Kelly L. Cormey