

Precinct 7 Town Meeting Candidates

8 members to be elected, 10 on the ballot (* indicates incumbent)

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

Christopher D. Corvi*

Rebecca C. Tellefsen*

Elizabeth S. Schreiber

Bryn E. Buck*

brynbuck@gmail.com

Community Activities:

- Town Meeting Member
- Member of Board of Directors of Swim Winchester

I believe that high quality education, smart growth development and thoughtful town financial planning are some of the important issues Winchester faces. I support the override for the Muraco Culvert and Muraco School Life Extension. Winchester benefits from the many people who generously volunteer their time and skills to numerous community and government organizations.

Jennifer Haefeli

Community Activities:

- Friends of Winter Pond, board member
- Student Success and Wellbeing Research Group, parent representative, (pre-Covid)
- Lynch Elementary School, library volunteer (pre-Covid)

Hello! Our family moved to Winchester in 2018. We have two children in the Winchester Public Schools; one in 7th grade at McCall, and one in 3rd grade at Lynch.

Some of the issues I care about include the schools; the environment, particularly the care and protection of Winter Pond; an expanded commercial tax base; strengthening Town communication to keep residents informed; and a snow removal policy for sidewalks.

I have always tried to be involved in my local community, and I see Town Meeting as an opportunity to both serve the community and learn more about the issues people care most

about. I would invite and welcome input from neighbors on any issues, and do my best to represent those voices in Town Meeting.

Since arriving in town, I have been actively involved on the board of Friends of Winter Pond, helping with efforts to protect the pond from nuisance plants and pollutants. I have also gotten involved with the schools. I was selected to serve as a parent representative in the school district's "Student Success and Wellbeing Research Group," and greatly enjoyed that group before everything shut down for Covid. Recently, I created a town listserv, Winchester4Schools@googlegroups.com, for discussion and advocacy around school issues.

I moved here from Somerville, where I was invited to be in the "kitchen cabinet" of my alderman, and I enjoyed participating in policy discussions around current community issues. I also served on the School Improvement Council at my children's bilingual school.

My professional background is in international development, advocacy, and communications, and I speak Spanish and Portuguese.

Bruce D. Hickey*

Deborah Bryant DePeter*

deb@bryantparkdesigns.com

Community Activities:

- Town Meeting Member
- Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE)
- Member of WFEE Grants Committee
- Winchester High School PFA Social Committee member/volunteer
- McCall MPA Volunteer
- Member, Winchester Chamber of Commerce

I've enjoyed serving as a Town Meeting member since 2013 (if memory serves!). I've lived in Winchester since 2007, and have twins in 10th grade at Winchester High School, and a 6th grader at McCall.

As a former high school teacher, educational issues are top of mind for me! I've loved volunteering in the schools over the years, and served as Co-President of the Lynch Parents Association for 3 years, Co-President of PISC (Parent Inter School Council), and have been on the WFEE Board since 2015. I absolutely feel that educating our youth falls into the category of what Winchester does well; though clearly the pandemic has spurred unprecedented challenges. I feel an absolute priority of the town must be to transition kids back to school *safely*, and address the mental health challenges so many of our youth (and teachers/administrators!) have been facing during the global pandemic.

As a local business owner with a downtown storefront (Bryant Park Designs at 9 Winchester Terrace), the vitality of Winchester Center is of paramount importance to me. I'm very interested in how the town can help support the various small local businesses and restaurants who help make the center a "destination" for our kids, their families, and other visitors. I'm particularly concerned and would like to be engaged in keeping the downtown vibrant and accessible during the MBTA construction.

I plan to vote in support of the proposed override for the Muraco culvert and Muraco School Life Extension. My feeling is that delaying necessary repairs and improvements is only more costly in the long run.

Christopher C. Jones*

Lived in LA for 5 years after I graduated from MIT '85 before eventually coming back to Winchester in 1993.

My background:

I grew up in Winchester since I was six years old and attended the old and new Lincoln elementary schools, McCall middle school, Malden Catholic High School and Winchester High Schools. I have fond memories of my favorite teachers and mentors in English (Br. Lyons and Ms. Hession), in Math (Br. Eid), in Chemistry (Doc Wheeler), in Physics (Larry Smith), and especially in German, Frau Austin (Sue Morse). Frau Austin, as we knew her, was my inspiration to work and live in Berlin, Germany for a year before and after the wall fell in 1989, an experience I will never forget. The dedication of, first and foremost, my family, and next my teachers, enabled me to continue my education at MIT and graduate with a degree in electrical engineering. My wife, Jean, whom I met in Winchester, and I have two daughters attending WHS. I have always loved science and technology and enjoy mentoring my two daughters as well as young colleagues at work. Margaret, a senior at WHS, is interested in pursuing a career in bioinformatics and immunology. She is currently using single-cell analysis tools to analyze immune cells cited in recent publications. My younger daughter is interested in computer science and loves playing classical piano.

We are very fortunate in Winchester. Winchester Schools have been excellent because Winchester attracts likeminded families who value education. I believe education is key to our success throughout our lives and that an excellent school system is driven by loving families, caring and inspirational teachers, and last, but not least, good resources. I am on the WHS improvement council and believe that we must continue to provide excellent resources while always remembering that an inspirational teacher with simply a piece of chalk and a blackboard or a few great books can change a student's life forever.

Megan Blackwell

I have lived in Precinct 7 for over seven years with my husband Bill, son Zach (age 10), daughter Cici (age 5), and new puppy Charlie (age 4 months). We have enjoyed the beauty and conveniences of Winchester, the amazing library, strong schools, and contagious town spirit. We are fortunate to have landed here and have a tremendous appreciation for Winchester's schools, beautiful outdoor spaces full of trees, water, and nature, and residents.

I work at MIT Lincoln Laboratory and primarily volunteer for the town's Finance Committee, where I am presently Vice Chair. I have been a member of this committee for the past six years and have learned a great deal about the town's finances and inner workings. My primary goal, if elected as a Town Meeting Member, would be to improve communication of key issues to the residents of Precinct 7. I want to ensure that my vote echoes the opinions of my constituents. One idea is to establish a Facebook group or regular zoom/in-person meeting for all Precinct 7 members who wish to join. This could serve as a two-way channel of communication between residents and Town Meeting Members.

I support the proposed override for the Muraco Culvert and Muraco School Life Extension projects. Although the cost is substantial, we must follow through on the final flood mitigation project that will protect our residents and remove buildings from the floodplain. Everyone can agree that the Muraco School needs attention. Rebuilding the school should be a priority, but the town cannot financially support the construction of both Lynch and Muraco schools simultaneously. So a sensible compromise is to fund the School Life Extension projects paid for by this override.

Magdalena C. Ferrari*

My community activities include representing Precinct 7 in town meeting, serving on the Master Plan Steering Committee, enrichment co chair for Lynch elementary school, CCD teacher at Saint Eulalia church, and lead Fundraising & Sponsorship for the Glen Doherty Memorial Foundation.

I believe this is a very critical time for Winchester as any other town in our state. The pandemic has created situations that we were not prepared for and have no handbook on how to solve most issues in 2020 & 2021. The good news is that we have historically worked very well together in town government with many great, intelligent, collaborative minds and we WILL get back to school & get back on track to develop and grow as a town and community with reverence for our schools, and overall community in a way that is socially and fiscally responsible and productive. That is what we have done well and continue to do well despite any negative perspectives throughout this pandemic. This is what we, as a community, need to work on going forward; collaborating and being constructive with positive outlooks rather than a destructive approach that only creates negativity for our community.

We have several critical issues put before us in Winchester. We will be getting our children back to school full time and need to focus on a school budget that will give ALL our schools the necessary resources, and focus on finding a new superintendent. This will be a critical decision for our 5,000 school children. We need to vote yes for the Muraco Culvert & Muraco School Life Extension as well as move forward with the new Lynch school. These are critical decisions that

impact our youth as well as everyone in our town; strong schools are a key to a strong town. We have done a wonderful job being fiscally responsible while accomplishing so much in the past eight years specifically.