

2021 Town Moderator Candidate

Heather R. von Mering

Town Meeting brings together the many volunteers in government in one space to work, discuss and debate the crucial matters facing the Town. There is wisdom and knowledge embedded in our 192 Town Meeting members, but also in all areas of our Town government: finance, schools, and the many town departments like Town Manager, Building, Engineering, Town Clerk, Public Works, Police and Fire, to name but a few. All of town comes together for our twice-annual Town Meeting to work for our community.

By shifting my focus from my current volunteer responsibilities to the Moderator of Town Meeting, I believe I can more strongly support our Town Meeting process and our local representative democracy; the direct and active engagement of our citizens to drive Winchester forward by creating opportunities for all voices to be heard. I also believe my ability to make space for all voices is critical to success in the position. I will also be honored to receive your vote to serve as the first ever elected female Town Meeting Moderator for Winchester, which is the last remaining elected seat in town to have never had female representation.

I have been a volunteer and leader in Winchester town government for more than a decade. Currently, I am the Chair of Winchester's Planning Board and am also a proud member of Town Meeting (representing Precinct 8) and Capital Planning. Prior to being elected to the Planning Board, I was appointed to the Winchester Historical Commission, where I served as the Chair. Locally, I have been a volunteer for the Winchester Historical Society and as a Winchester Public School District tutor in Math and Science. I currently coach Winchester's Girl's U8 hockey team. I live in the north end of Winchester with my husband Fritz and our 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. I am currently am Vice President of Von Salmi & Associates. My expertise is in architecture, design, historical and zoning regulations, and the financial components of the residential building industry. I am a qualified construction expert in Massachusetts courts.