

## **Precinct 5 Town Meeting Candidates**

Eight to be elected, sixteen on the ballot

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

(\* indicates incumbent)

### **Colin G. Simson\***

[colin.simson@comcast.net](mailto:colin.simson@comcast.net)

#### **Community Activities**

Current Town Meeting Member – Precinct 5 (Since 1990)

Current Precinct 5 Representative for the Government Relations Committee

Former Precinct 5 Precinct Captain

Former Precinct 5 Representative for the Rules Committee

Former Chair of the Rules Committee

Former Chair and current Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees – Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church

Former Winchester Youth Soccer Coach (Boys and Girls – 11 years)

Former Winchester Youth Basketball Coach and former Commissioner of Winchester Girls Youth Basketball

#### **Candidate Statement**

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

Maintaining the quality and excellence of the Winchester Schools

Affordable Housing and the need to maintain Safe Harbor

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

The need to provide a steady stream of affordable housing and maintaining the quality and excellence of the Winchester Schools, go hand-in-hand. A steady increase in the affordable housing stock in Winchester is necessary to maintain Safe Harbor from hostile Chapter 40 B development. Winchester's 6.3 square miles of land, schools and infrastructure are very close to capacity. As hostile 40 B developers are allowed to circumvent zoning regulations and build large residential complexes, both the Winchester schools and the Town infrastructure would become overwhelmed.

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

Winchester is "country living 15 minutes from Downtown Boston." Winchester is an attractive and safe place to live and raise families. With its reputation for excellent public schools, Winchester attracts those who want excellent public school education for their children. Winchester also attracts bright, innovative and articulate citizens who give back to the community by serving in the Town government and volunteering on civic-minded and altruistic boards and societies.

However, Winchester suffers from a lack of diversity in its citizenry. The cost of housing prevents Winchester from becoming more diverse. Increasing the affordable housing stock, not only allows a more diverse population to share in the good life in Winchester, but would also make Winchester a richer experience for all its 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?**

Yes. A properly restored Sanborn House is the best future home for the Winchester Schools Administration. Each of the school spaces that the WPS administration has occupied are now or shortly will be unavailable. Schools are at or near capacity due to greatly increased enrollment over the past 25 years. The State will assist Winchester for classroom spaces in new or renovated school buildings, such as the new proposed Lynch Elementary School, but will not pay for adding administration space. Parkhurst should be reserved for future swing space, as both Lynch and Muraco school replacement will hopefully be funded in the coming years. The Sanborn House is historic, but has been under-utilized as a Town asset. Restoration, in keeping with the Sanborn House's early 20<sup>th</sup> Century style character, would provide a suitable home for the WPS administration, while coexisting with the Winchester Historical Society.

**I-Ching K. Scott**

iching.scott@gmail.com

**Community Activities:**

Winchester Planning Board - Elected member, term 2021-2024

Planning Board Liaison - School Committee, EFPBC, Climate Action Advisory Committee

Planning Board Working Groups - Accessory Dwelling Unit, Half-Story

Ambrose Elementary School – mom to two students, library volunteer

Winchester Soccer Club – soccer mom

Winchester Community Music School – music mom

Wright Locke Farm – chicken chores volunteer, raspberry guru

Native Plant Trust – member

LEED AP – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional

National Association of Realtors - member

**Candidate Statement**

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

Growth that is sustainable, resilient, inclusive, equitable, beautiful, and smart

- Climate resilience
- Housing diversity
- Economic vitality
- Equitable distribution of resources

Winchester is a beautiful town with some gorgeous architecture, protected natural resources, great schools, and many dedicated folks engaged to make the community work. Its proximity to Boston region's robust economy has boosted the town's prosperity as well as created many internal and external pressures. Many decades of volunteer hours have been dedicated to think of the change and growth in the most recently documented Winchester Master Plan 2030. We need to keep this as a living document and continue striving for its goals in housing, economic development, transit, historic and cultural resources, natural resources, public facilities and services, and land use.

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

One of the most acute issues is the lack of housing diversity. Our aging population is having difficulty remaining in the community, our young folks who grew up here can't afford to come back, car-dependent properties do not accommodate our neighbors with disabilities, and many of those who contribute to the prosperity of this town (teachers, town employees, store and service employees, renters, etc.) have few opportunities to find housing. We need to find solutions to care for our community, build a robust tax base so that residents are not overly burdened, and help ease the local housing crisis while retaining the gorgeous aesthetic qualities of the town's natural and built-environment.

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

We are blessed with a number of dedicated folks willing to volunteer their time, talents and ideas to town government. The process allows for much robust conversation and discussions on issues that impact us all. The possibility of online engagement these last years have increased the accessibility and diversity of folks being able to participate. I have benefited greatly from being able to participate through virtual means.

Yet, I look forward to the in-person meetings again, the abilities to be in one another's presence, to be able to discern body language, tone, and tenor in richer ways than the flat screen can provide. Being in community will bring on more compassion and kinship while discussing these very important issues and common goals.

**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 Sanborn House and Carriage House are the town's gorgeous historical resources that should be cared for and used. The carrying costs, maintenance, as well as the liability of such a dilapidated structure so close to the elementary school are costly. To demolish it, however, would also be a great loss of a unique historical resource.

Lynch is finally getting its long-overdue needs addressed. During construction, many of the children and teachers will be displaced to swing spaces either in trailers or at Parkhurst if we can find space for the admin. The Parkhurst building was used as swing-space during the construction of Vincent-Owen and Ambrose, it needs to be used as a swing-space for Lynch and Muraco as the district improves each of the buildings. Without the swing-space, the district will need to use temporary trailers for the children at a much greater cost than it would to use Parkhurst. Parkhurst was designed as classroom building and is ill-used as an administrative space, while the Carriage House is the appropriate size and location. Construction is never free or easy. Restoring the Carriage House for the administration and using Parkhurst as swing space for the construction at Lynch and Muraco will be the best use of town resources as we continue to improve the school district for the benefit of the entire town.

**Ronald Buck**

## **Susan DeLeo**

smdeleo@gmail.com

### **Community Activities:**

Past President of Children's Own School Parents Committee

Volunteer for Ambrose Elementary School PTO Committees and Activities  
Volunteer for Special Olympics Extra Mile Club

Volunteer for Girl Scout Troop 82795

### **Candidate Statement**

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

Prioritization of programs and projects to promote responsible planning and budgeting.

Supporting our wonderful schools and the families who access them. Encouraging a robust and thriving downtown through current businesses and planned future growth.

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

It is very important to operate within a focused plan and budget. I support open dialogue when considering various programs and projects of merit with a goal of reaching consensus. It is important to be responsible with the tax dollars that support our town. With appropriate planning we can reach many of the shared goals of our community.

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

Winchester is a wonderful community in which to live and raise a family. There are many terrific programs throughout the year that bring us together and allow us to enjoy our beautiful town. Winchester residents often come together as a community to support projects that we value. Winchester would benefit from a focused goal of prioritized plans for the future. It is important to understand the budget constraints we face and plan accordingly to ensure that Winchester continues to be a great place for all residents. Further, I believe an increased focus on open communication and transparency will lead to greater community building and civic engagement

#### **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, I do not support building an administrative building at the Carriage house or the new Lynch Elementary School. The Finance Committee of Town Meeting voted against moving forward with plans for an administrative building for WPS. I respect the opinion of those on the Finance Committee and their detailed understanding of Winchester's budget. Further, as there are several new overrides proposed for the near future, we must make budget conscious decisions based on prioritization of needs

**John F. Dobbins**

**Community Activities:**

Coach and mentor  
Bridget Brigade Foundation – Co-Founder & Treasurer  
Naval Reservist

**Candidate Statement**

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

Schools  
Budgets  
Long-term planning  
Transparency

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

Schools – I am also a candidate for School Committee

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

Winchester has dedicated teachers, town officials, public works employees, police, fire, etc. that make this community an ideal place to raise a family and live.

One area that could be improved is long-term planning and budgeting.

**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 have an open mind on this issue and as a candidate for School Committee, am interested in evaluating all options and impacts before making any decision on the Carriage House. Its \$6.5M price tag alone necessitates this approach.

**Wendy L. Swanton\***

**William Band**

waband@comcast.net

**Community Activities:**

Residency in Winchester: 28 years  
Town Meeting Member: Precinct 5 - 2 terms  
Wright Locke Farm: Volunteer member of grounds maintenance team - 15 years  
The Jenks Center: Volunteer driver for senior citizen transportation program - 7 years

**Candidate Statement**

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

- Managing the pace of urban development that will enable Winchester to meet state-mandated affordable housing goals,
- Improving the commercial vitality of the Downtown business core
- Mitigating safety risks to pedestrians and bicyclists through better traffic management
- Balancing the tradeoffs necessary to accommodate anticipated capital requirements for upgrades to primary school buildings
- Maintaining a sensitivity to Winchester’s historic and aesthetic heritage

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

Winchester must add more diversity to housing stock to better accommodate the needs of young families, downsizing seniors, multigenerational households, and renters - consistent with local community views on density, aesthetics, traffic, and commercial needs.

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

Does well:

- Supports a strong school system
- Maintains a robust financial balance sheet
- Defends historic preservation as an important consideration during planning and policy making
- Strives to become a welcoming and inclusive community

Could be improved:

- Accelerate Winchester’s production of affordable housing units consistent with State of Massachusetts mandates.
- Increase consideration to traffic /safety management, with special attention to mitigating disruptions to traffic flow, parking, and commuter travel during the upcoming MBTA station demolition and re-construction.

**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

**William N. Miller\***

**Helen Philliou**

[helenphilliou@comcast.net](mailto:helenphilliou@comcast.net)

**Community Activities:**

Town Meeting Member, current member of Capital Planning Committee, former chair. Finance Committee, Former Ambrose Parents Association, Enrichment Committee.

**Candidate Statement**

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

How is Winchester going to define itself both now and in the future and what resources do we need to bring to bear to execute that vision? While there are many ongoing and future issues for the Town, it is important to move ahead in ways that allow the Town to retain the Triple A Bond rating we currently have. The Triple A Bond rating allows the Town to get the most favorable interest rates for large projects such as schools and municipal buildings.

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

Winchester has a unique history of self-government through Representative Town Meeting. We need to use this forum for open community discourse to help determine the future character and priorities of this community so that new and existing residents, young and elderly have a compassionate place to call home. Town Meeting is the means by which we come together to discuss and harmonize plans for the next generation Winchester.

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

Winchester is constantly striving for self-improvement - the infrastructure, the environment and Town and School buildings. We have an engaged population, and we need to encourage more residents to volunteer their time in the many opportunities that are out there. Only by increasing the number of residents who participate in the process can we achieve transparency that will lead us to accountability.

**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 support a more thorough review of the current proposal given the fact that this project proposes to make changes to an historic building that is part of the landscape of Winchester. From my perspective, there are more issues to clarify about renovation to a historic building and how this fits into the complete list of requests for funding.

I assume that the project of restoring the carriage house (for \$6 million) for the school department administration will be the subject of an override vote. Residents will need to study the question with more complete information to determine whether this project is in the best long-term interests of the Town.

**Rosanne Coric\***

**Pamela Cort\***

**Kathryn Hughes**

kathrynhughes@verizon.net

**Community Activities:**

My community activities span non-profit education, neighborhood, civic, and industry-related organizations, including:

- Judge and mentor for district and state high school DECA competitions,
- Winchester town election observer
- Neighborhood association Treasurer and Director
- Boards/committees of the North Shore Technology Council, Massachusetts Software Council, Software and Internet Industry Association, and National Science Foundation.

### **Candidate Statement**

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

I've been a resident and homeowner in Winchester for 37 years. During that time, Winchester schools have been rated among the highest in the state. Recently, Winchester High School has fallen from #16 to #29 in US News state rankings. We must understand why that is and to assure that our K-12 curriculum, particularly reading, science, and Math achieve excellence.

Winchester faces many financial challenges, including underfunded pension liabilities, schools in need of renovation/replacement, and demand for affordable housing and school.

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

Having devoted most of my career to education technology, I'm passionate about arming Winchester students with the educational resources, skills, and technological advantages to arm them to successfully compete in a global economy throughout life. This means leveraging every educational dollar to maximize outcomes for our students and prioritizing those investments against investments that may not affect their ultimate success.

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

Winchester offers an outstanding quality of life. We are gifted with natural resources, transportation, and proximity to Boston. We owe that in large measure to our town employees- Fire and Police staff, Public Works team, teachers and administrators, and Town Hall staff, who work hard every day to service our community.

With a small commercial base, Winchester relies primarily on residential taxes to fund are already forcing out retirees and others who can't absorb ongoing increases. We must make difficult choices to assure the town's fiscal stability by addressing our unfunded liabilities, balancing the community's short and long-term needs, and maximizing the value of all town resources at our disposal.

#### **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?**

Like many citizens, I eagerly await the detailed proposal and financial analysis Town Meeting voted to fund for restoring the Carriage House that will present actual costs and benefits of this project in the short and long term for all to understand. Hopefully, the proposal will also include a review of alternative scenarios considered for offices and the associated costs and benefits.

Initial projections of \$5+ million suggest that this will be a substantial investment. Citizens need to understand which alternative /investments will NOT be funded if this project proceeds, particularly as overrides are already expected for the Muraco and Lynch Schools



**Katherine V. Krikorian**

**Community Activities:**

Winchester Republican Town Committee

**Candidate Statement**

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

Taxes and Fiscal responsibility/transparency

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

I believe we need to be more transparent on how and what we spend the towns residents money.

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

When I moved here in 1979, it was because Winchester was in the top 10 Best Schools. It has slipped to I believe 29. I wanted my children to have the best education, which I know they got, however I am concerned about the future generations to come.

**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 would like to see more information on the project before forming an opinion.

**Robert Kuszewski\***

bob@kuszewski.com

**Community Activities:**

- Scouts Troop 503 Assistant Scoutmaster
- St. Eulalia Choir
- Little League Baseball Coach (Retired, SYBS & Mission Hill LL)

**Candidate Statement**

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

- Schools
- Zoning, Thoughtful Development, & Land Management
- Long-term management of town's resources
- Town Finance

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

Winchester has a long-term structural problem with our finances. As currently constituted, the town's finances require additional operating overrides every few years for the foreseeable future.

Operating overrides are a gamble. Overrides in 2011 & 2013 failed, causing huge disruption across all departments. Tying the town's future to the vagaries of operating overrides is shortsighted, so let's face these challenges head-on.

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

The list of things that Winchester does well would be too long to write here. We have excellent schools, first responders, library, and public works. Winchester can do a better job of reducing our environmental impact, implementing financial controls, and communicating with the 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?**

Winchester spent significant money to improve Parkhurst School, which currently houses the WPS administrative offices, so that the lower level can house the town's Pre-K program. This means that we'll need to continue to invest in significant building maintenance. Rather than spend large amounts of money to build a new building for school administration, we have the option to leave the administration where they are at a significantly lower cost by doing some renovation to that space.

Of course, we may need to consider other options in order to use Parkhurst's upper level during Lynch reconstruction.

**Maureen Pimentel**

maureenp1012@gmail.com

**Community Activities**

Board Member Winchester Got Lunch  
Vice Chair Winchester Board of Health  
Winchester Soccer Club Board Member 6 years  
Youth Soccer Coach 10 years  
Past active member of Ambrose School PTO

**Candidate Statement**

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

With the events of the recent years, I was fortunate to be elected to the Board of Health last year to help guide our town through the many public health issues it is facing. Being involved with the Board of Health has made me want to be more involved in the town however possible. I want to work with Town Meeting members to make fiscally responsible decisions to have smart growth and plan better to manage Winchester going forward.

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

I am passionate about bringing back civility. Encouraging people to work together regardless of their positions on issues, to engage and forge the best path forward for Winchester.

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

Winchester has amazing community involvement. Winchester does not have amazing collaboration across departments. We should be working to build relationships among leaders and have the elected boards work more closely together

**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 spending 6 million dollars of taxpayer's money while we are trying to recover from a pandemic does not make sense. We are building a new school that can house the administration or we can make alternative plans.

**Philip Reuland**