

Precinct 8 Town Meeting Candidates

Eight to be elected, fifteen on the ballot

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

(* indicates incumbent)

Bryan Kana

bryan.kana@gmail.com

Community Activities:

I regularly volunteered at Project SOUP in Somerville before moving to Winchester in May '21. Now that we're settled in the community, I'm looking forward to supporting similar groups locally. I'm also excited to volunteer with our schools and youth sports.

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

I believe it is critical to invest in the strength of our schools, community safety, and the expansion of small businesses.

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

Fostering small business activity in Winchester. I believe that incentivizing commercial growth will benefit the community, help diversify the tax base away from residential property taxes and support the feasibility of long-term commitments like the Lynch and Muraco school efforts.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester's exceptional public school system has been a tremendous investment for the town – education, facilities, and support for property values. Continuing our leadership in that area is important to the well-being of our children and the overall financial health of the community.

However, I feel like Winchester should be generating more business activity. With more residents working remotely (i.e., in Winchester), the town has an opportunity to capture commercial activity that was previously spent elsewhere. Adding restaurants, shops, and other small businesses would enrich the community and diversify our amenities. However, our town government must direct policies and property to spur that business investment.

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, I support refurbishing the Carriage House to create a standalone administrative building. I considered the 9/9/21 School Committee presentation, the Central Office Relocation Study, and the town's general finances to weigh the issue.

It is undeniable that school administration needs additional space as the district grows. Ignoring that clear need is a disservice to our school system. Refurbishment allows the town to leverage an unused asset in a manner where direct costs could be more closely controlled vs. mixed with Lynch School priorities. It also offers more space and faster access than a co-location at Lynch. Given that the costs are comparable for either effort, particularly when considering the carrying costs of the unused property, the speed to access through refurbishment supports a standalone building at the Carriage House property.

Edward A. Bopp*
edbopp@gmail.com

Community Activities:

I have been on Town Meeting for 9 years. I previously served for 5 years on the Finance Committee, and I also served on the Energy Management Committee.

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

- Continued support of schools to maintain the high standards of educational excellence that is the cornerstone of our community.
- Expansion of affordable housing to meet state mandates in a calculated manner that allows the Town as much input and control in the planning process as possible through friendly 40B projects.
- A fiscally responsible budget in both short and long term spending that allows the Town to maintain its high level of services (police, fire, schools, DPW, etc.) while fitting within Proposition 2 ½.
- Transparency and open communication from all Town boards and committees.

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

Currently, I believe the expansion of affordable housing to meet state mandates is the most pressing issue facing Winchester. In the event the Town fails to meet state mandates for minimum affordable housing, the Town may be subject to hostile 40B projects under which we would have little to no control over the size, location, or other crucial logistical considerations. Not only could this permanently and adversely affect the landscape of our Town, but it could negatively impact the services provided by our schools, police, fire department, and DPW. I believe the Town must make it a top priority to continue to work with developers on friendly 40B projects to continue to meet state mandates so that we can have as much input as possible into these projects while providing necessary affordable housing in Winchester.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

A strength of Winchester is our continued support of our school system. By maintaining and growing the high level of services provided to our students, combined with the excellent services provided by our police, fire, and DPW, Winchester consistently remains one of the most desirable towns to reside in the Greater Boston area.

I would like to continue to see more transparency among our Town boards and committees so that all of our citizens can easily educate themselves on the current issues facing our town.

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 believe it is premature for the Town to commit to building a stand-alone administrative building for the schools at the Carriage House. The Town needs to further explore other potential options, such as co-locating administration in the new Lynch building or renting office space, before making this significant financial commitment. If restoring the Carriage House makes the most sense from a fiscal and logistical perspective after considering all other options, then I would support this project.

Katrina Frongillo*

Dora Macleod

Community Activities

I am a proud lifelong resident of Winchester. I raised my three sons here, all of whom graduated from Winchester High School. I have resided on Farrow Street since 1996. In addition to raising my family and working full time at a local business, I have been active in the community in various ways:

ENKA volunteer

All Night Graduation Committee

American Legion Women's Auxilliary

Blues (Festival) for Veterans Association

Winchester Field Development Committee (WFDC)

Sons of Italy Women's Lodge

Candidate Statement

I would like to become even more involved by joining the already dedicated residents who have worked, and continue to work tirelessly in the best interest of our town. I would like to help ensure the continued development of Winchester's resources and provide the necessary support and direction for generations to come.

I believe the most important asset an elected official can possess is open-mindedness. I also believe in transparency and accountability. As such, I will strive to listen to my constituents, communicate effectively with the them and work towards...

Although Winchester is a beautiful town, we are facing many challenges that need our collective attention: multiple affordable housing projects, rebuilding two elementary schools, proposed school administrative building, not to mention many roads, bridges and buildings that need renovating. We are a town with little commercial income and a narrow revenue stream. In addition, Winchester needs to work hard to ensure that the high standard of education afforded to all that have gone through this system in the past, continues. It is the responsibility of each elected official to keep all aspects and needs of the town in mind when listening, debating, and voting for measures.

I would like my absolute love and enthusiasm for my hometown, combine it with my energy and organization skills to help set and accomplish goals that will work for all of Winchester and ensure the next generation enjoys this town as much as I have and do.

TAKE BACK THE TOWN

MAKE WINCHESTER GREAT AGAIN

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Communication—keeping residents informed

We have several challenges going on, housing, new schools, administrative buildings

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

All challenges need strict attention on planning and management both financially and operation wise—With very little commercial income and a narrow stream of revenue

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester is a caring and involved community. We are known for our high standard of education

We can improve our spending amounts, holding developers more accountable on budgets—have town officials become transparent and accountable.

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?

Way too much \$5.9 Million.

Emily Shield*

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Community Activities:

Town Meeting Member (7 years)
Lynch Elementary Lunchroom and Recess Volunteer
Lynch Elementary Room Parent
Network for Social Justice – Parent Circle
Founder of Winchester For Peace

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

School funding and thoughtful development (residential and commercial) are the issues most important to Winchester.

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

Living in the “North Main” area of Winchester, I am acutely aware of development along the north corridor and in our neighborhoods. My priority is to have these neighborhoods remain affordable (or as much as that means in Winchester) with the community feel intact.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

See above.

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?

There is clearly a great need for administration space. I am still weighing my position on this issue.

Roger Michelson*

Nicholas M. Koup

Steven J. Singer*

Nicholas J. Bogovich*

nick@nickbogovich.com

Community Activities:

- Town Meeting Member (11+ years)
- former Town Meeting Precinct 8 Chairperson (2 years)
- former Winchester Swim & Tennis Club Tennis Co-Chair (4 years)
- Coach for youth baseball, softball, football, and basketball (8+ years)
- FAN Softball participant (11+ years)

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important? I think the issues that are most important to Winchester currently are:

- promoting the needs of our schools and students, and ensuring the Lynch and Muraco schools are rebuilt in a timely fashion
- addressing the lack of affordable housing within the town
- working through communication issues and divides that exist between town leadership and the town's constituents
- maintaining Winchester's AAA bond rating

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

I am troubled by the increase in communication issues in town over the last few years, as I believe effective communication is foundational to the town working together through other critical issues like our school rebuilds, affordable housing solutions, and town financial matters.

It is my hope that the town's newly formed Communications Study Committee will go a long way towards helping the town identify communication issues between the town and its residents and within town boards themselves and ultimately begin solving them.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

The town generally does a great job of promoting a variety of causes and initiatives. What may stand to improve is how said promotion may impact others within town or how the town can operate in the future.

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 do not support the proposal to restore the Carriage House as a standalone administrative building for WPS. While I understand the need for the WPS administration to have dedicated workspace as well as the desire to restore the Carriage House, the cost of the proposed project per employee is too costly and would introduce additional stress on town finances and our bond rating.

Michael Creane

michaelcreane2022@gmail.com

Please list your Community Activities

Winchester Youth Baseball / Softball – coach and member of board (25 years)

Winchester Soccer Club – coach, member of board, referee coordinator (23 years)

Winchester Fields Committee – resident member (8 years)

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Currently, I believe the Waterfield discussion is very important. Tied to this discussion is my concern that residents of the precincts have a proactive forum to increase awareness of ongoing town issues and a representative voice in their consideration. I am also mindful of the need for school renovations and the impact of overrides on residents.

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

Based on the affirmative recent vote on revisiting the Waterfield project, I believe it is key to openly share the advantages and pitfalls in order to best represent the wishes of the town residents.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

I believe Winchester benefits from well considered and bright residents in key leadership roles. I believe this leadership will benefit by town meeting members who, as effectively as possible, communicate with their following and represent them honestly.

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 need to review the monetary details and gains of moving to this stand alone site compared to continuing with the current space. In concept, yes I agree. In reality, I need to learn more on this issue.

Gregory T. Winn

Stacey Princi*

Community Activities:

- Town Meeting Member ~ March, 2019 - present
- Co-Chair PISC (Parent Inter-School Council) ~ 2017-2019 & 2020-present
- LPA (Lynch Parents Association) volunteer ~ September, 2012 - present
 - past President (4 years), VP (1 year)
 - (volunteer involvement includes producing the International Festival Performance, Teacher Appreciation Week committee, volunteer at Field Day, Drama Club committee, Room Parent, chaperone & classroom volunteer, fundraising committee)
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Boston Family Courts ~ March, 2012 - June, 2019
- Host, Neighborhood Events (Block Parties, Egg Hunts, etc.) ~ October, 2008 - present
- American University admissions rep ~ September, 1993 - September, 2000
- Young Life leader (national high school youth group) ~ September, 1988 - September, 2000 (Hamilton, MA, Washington, DC, Chicago, IL, Cambridge, MA)

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

We moved here in 2008 to live in a community with proximity to the city that had a good school system. Our children have gone (& are still going) through Lynch on their way to McCall and the HS. We have been extremely happy with the education they have received and the involvement of their teachers. It is important for me to continue to foster a top-rated education for all residents. It is a shame that our educators are not paid comparable wages to like-towns around us (Belmont, Burlington, Lexington). We have had a high turnover of school principals and have had top candidates pull out of the process due to non-competitive salaries.

I feel it is important to continue to work on meeting the social emotional needs of our students and educators, to foster and practice Growth Mindset, inclusion and teaching to a diverse style of learners.

I actively attend the bi-weekly School Committee meetings (in person for years and more recently via Zoom or live Win Cam telecasts). This helps me stay abreast of what is going on in our schools as well as keeping a pulse on what is going on in town.

I think it is important to move forward on the Lynch and subsequent Muraco rebuilds.

It is important that our town continues to foster inclusivity and create a sense of greater diversity. We need to find ways for affordable housing in our town and to increase our commercial tax base.

I think it is important for our town to take a look at our spending and to work to come together as a community to offer opportunities for all in a fiscally responsible way. We should look at ways to bring in revenue for our town through retail and rental opportunities to help decrease/defray the cost to residents for the things our already high taxes do not cover.

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

I am most passionate about education, smart spending (with transparency) and affordable housing.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester has an excellent school system, a community of volunteers who are passionate about the organizations/groups they belong to and a vibrant downtown. We should continue to work together to foster inclusiveness for all of 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?

No, I do not believe we need to spend the exorbitant amount of money proposed to renovate and bring the Carriage House to code in order to have a stand-alone administrative building. I believe there are alternatives that are more cost-effective that would enable the administrators to have an updated office space without such a burden to the taxpayers. (The Lynch rebuild will need more than just Parkhurst as a swing space. And using it for that purpose would only be a couple year proposal. We don't need to renovate a stand-alone space for a 1-3 year bandaid when there are other alternatives.)

Julie Anne Fish**Stephen McCabe****Community Activities:**

1. WYBS Board Member- 6 years
2. WYBS Coach- 8 years
3. Winchester Youth Hockey Coach- 4 years
4. Winchester Youth Soccer Coach- 5 years
5. Winchester Youth Lacrosse Asst. Coach- 2 years
6. Winchester Youth Basketball Coach- 5 years
7. Winchester Pop Warner Coach- 1 year
8. Lynch School Parent Volunteer- 8 years

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

1. The decline in our high school's ranking from the top 10 to almost number 30 today.
2. Parental involvement in school policies
3. Increasing economic development throughout the town
4. Fiscal Responsibility
5. Removing politics from the town's decision making process

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

I care deeply about the future of our town and want to better understand the recent declines in our school rankings. Why are Winchester teachers essentially paid at the average level for the state and at a level well below surrounding towns? I want the town to focus more on hiring and retaining great teachers and improve the special education programs.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

There are so many things that Winchester does well but unfortunately the number of areas that need to be improved has increased in recent years. I do not believe there is enough transparency and accountability in town government. For example, the town recently hired a full-time Sustainability Officer at a cost of well over \$100k annually and drove up the cost of a building permit to offset this new position.

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?

Approving a \$6mln project for school administrators when special education resources are getting cut and our schools rankings are deteriorating? Have final decisions been made to rebuild Lynch and Muraco Schools? Based on my current understanding of the proposal and the significant needs our schools currently have, I am adamantly opposed to this project.

Diab H. Jerius*

Diab Jerius is also a candidate for Planning Board.