

## **2022 Library Board of Trustees Candidates**

Two to be elected for three years (\* indicates incumbent)

### **David Coughlan**

**Precinct 7**

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#### **Community Activities:**

I am recently retired so this is really the first time I have had time available.

#### **Candidate Statement**

##### **What is the role of the Library Trustee?**

Oversight of the management of the library. It is one of the most precious resources we have in our town, and it is critically important that we maintain its excellence.

##### **What skills and experience would you bring to the library?**

I worked in the university library through college, and have been an active patron of the library for the 30+ years we've lived in town. I have a real estate management background, so I've been able to add some value dealing with physical plant issues in the building.

##### **What are the needs and challenges of the Winchester Public Library?**

Staffing. While the town obviously wants to control expenses, I have a real concern that this concern becomes all encompassing, and puts restrictions on the library's ability to maintain and attract high quality staff. The excellence of our library depends on the quality of its staff, and I don't want to see that quality suffer.

##### **Are there any new resources needed to address these challenges and/or improve the Winchester Public Library?**

More funding for staff positions – we can't be in a position where all staff has to be limited in how many hours they work so as to avoid health care expenses and other benefits being paid. It's difficult enough to attract staff in this environment, but having no ability to offer a full-time position makes this even more of a challenge.

### **Wendy Karle\***

**Precinct 4**

#### **Community Activities:**

- Current Chair, Winchester Public Library Board of Trustees
- Member, Winchester Hospital Patient Family Advisory Committee (PFAC)
- Parent, WHS student

#### **Candidate Statement**

##### **What is the role of the Library Trustee?**

In general, the Library Board of Trustees has a role in determining the mission of the library, setting the policy that governs the library, hiring and evaluating a library director, and overseeing

the general management of the library.<sup>1</sup> In Winchester specifically, the Board of Trustees has custody and management of the library, its property, and budget.

**What skills and experience would you bring to the Library?**

- Current Winchester Public Library Trustee
- Master's Degree in Public Administration
- 25 years working in the not-for-profit sector
- Employed as an independent business consultant specializing in strategic planning
- Volunteered as a mentor and tutor for many years at the Library in my previous community
- Active patron of the library

**What are the needs and challenges of the Winchester Public Library?**

The Library structure itself dates back to 1931. The nearly one hundred-year-old building has multiple care and upkeep needs and there is an organized effort to address these as part of the strategic plan. As an example, restoration or replacement of the original putty set windows is presently being addressed and will be a multi-year project.

Ensuring that the Winchester Public Library is at the forefront in terms of technology offerings for patrons has always been important, and became more critical as a result of the pandemic. Identifying and embracing emerging technology is a continuous need.

Like so many businesses, staff turnover during covid has put a strain on the Library. Opportunities to retain staff and attract qualified, technology-focused candidates for open positions is a top priority.

**Are there any new resources needed to address these challenges and/or improve the Winchester Public Library?**

Financial resources necessary to address needs will continue to be identified as part of the budget and strategic planning processes.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: American Library Association website