

Precinct 1 Town Meeting Candidates

Eight to be elected for 3 years, nine on the ballot

One to be elected for 2 years, two on the ballot (J. Ryan and K. Duncan)

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

(* indicates incumbent)

Amanda Lewis *

amanda6lewis@gmail.com

Community Activities

Many people on this side of town know me as the person who started the Multicultural Fair at Muraco School. It was a pleasure to organize and run that event for 8 years. Also at Muraco, I chaired the Enrichment Committee. I've also volunteered at McCall and Winchester High School and with numerous organizations in town over the years: Winchester Cooperative Nursery School, Swim Winchester (President for 3 years), LWV, and Winchester A Better Chance (it's my 6th year there and I'm currently Vice President).

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

I'm interested in seeing better communication about town issues, continued effort for strong schools, smart decisions on land management, and more great work on keeping our town a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

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

I moved to Winchester 25 years ago because it felt like a great place to raise our family. Our three children attended school here from preschool through high school. Winchester's schools are excellent and it's because we have excellent schools that this is a place where people want to live. The school system is most of our town's budget and that's as it should be. I don't have kids in school any more but I care about everyone's kids. Our schools will always be a top priority for me.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester does a lot well. Our town is a great place to live. I'd like us to do more to make our community welcoming and to consider how to best use our resources to make life in town better for all.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025 (https://www.winchester.us/DocumentCenter/View/9219/Communications-Study-Committee_Final-Report_Recommendations). Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Thank you to the Communications Study Committee for all their good work. While I wish we had a local newspaper that would let everyone know about the salient issues of the day, we don't. And communication is so important. I agree with many details of the plan so far: a better town website, software to facilitate communication between town government and residents, and a Town Meeting Member Association. All of these would be great. Do we need to employ someone as our Public Information Officer? I'm not sure. I hate to spend \$100K a year if we

could get good results through volunteers in town (vote01890, for example!) and with a one-time payment to a communications consulting firm. But I am open to hearing more.

Enzo Rascionato

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Community Activities

Winchester Finance Committee: 5 years (2018-Present), Chair (2021), Vice Chair (2020)

Winchester Town Manager Search Committee Chair (2022)

Winchester Transfer Station Working Group (2022)

Waterfield Task Force, Finance Committee Liaison (2021)

Energy Management Committee, Finance Committee Rep (2019-2020)

Town Meeting Member (2021, 2022)

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Our biggest challenge as a Town is balancing our property tax level with rising town costs, especially for our capital program. Winchester already has one of the highest average tax bills per household in Massachusetts, increasing next year with the recent Lynch override. It's critical that we prioritize our goals and make balanced decisions in upcoming budget cycles to avoid large property tax increases in the next couple of years, across several key goals:

- Ensuring our schools remain a key asset and great place for our children to thrive
- Funding and maintaining our town buildings, roads, Transfer Station, and other infrastructure
- Diversifying our tax base to include more commercial revenue opportunities

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

The Capital Planning Committee highlighted our acute needs for our town infrastructure in last year's Fall Town Meeting. While Winchester has funding in place to support town assets including buildings, roads, schools, etc, that funding has not kept pace with what's needed. This lack of funding has forced us into a reactive policy where we only fund projects once they are truly critical. As part of the Finance Committee, I have spent a lot of time understanding our capital needs and working with the CPC to come up with a proactive, long-term strategy, and look forward to getting proposals to review at Spring Town Meeting in April.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester does a lot of things well. It has a strong school system, a great downtown, and beautiful public spaces. Those things coupled with its proximity to Boston make Winchester an incredible place to live, and I would love the opportunity to represent Precinct 1 as we work to make it even better.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

As an active participant in Town government for 5 years, I agreed wholeheartedly with the Communications Study findings and conclusions. Specifically:

- Currently it is very difficult to get clear information on everything going on across all the Town boards, committees, and town services.
- Our website doesn't provide good search capabilities, and most key documents are not online even if you try to search for them.
- Town Meeting members are not given enough resources for information and regular updates to stay informed without investing significant time.

I am very supportive of funding one-time costs to revamp the website, and work with committees and Town staff to set up better communication mechanisms and templates. Before creating a new position, I would like to hear more from the Town Manager on her response to the Study's findings. And as always, we need to weigh this new position not as a standalone proposal, but against all other needs of the Town, such as schools, our long-term capital plan, and the recent traffic study.

I look forward to helping support that conversation for Precinct 1.

Marilyn Gagalis

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Community Activities

Many years serving the schools as volunteer and holding office in the Parent associations.
Neighborhood advocate
Church volunteer
Girl Scout volunteer

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Communication with residents
Senior citizen issues
Maintaining the highest educational ratings
Zoning Law changes
Bylaw changes
Parking issues

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

Communication from town offices, commissions and boards to residents is insufficient. In addition, an electronic communication system such as a simple Facebook group should be developed for town meeting members to communicate with precinct members.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

The town of Winchester maintains the beauty of the downtown area well but needs improvement in the upkeep of other areas.

Staff in the town are always helpful and accommodating.

Library support is good and I hope that trend will continue. Library funding is vital to the educational, professional and recreational needs of our citizens.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest.

I would absolutely recommend a written communication plan and a town staff member to implement it.

Meredith Mason-Crowley *
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Community Activities

- When our son was younger, I was a den mother for Cub and Boy Scouts, supporter of Winchester Baseball and Winchester Soccer
- Currently a Precinct 1 Town Meeting Member
- Member of the Committee on Government Regulations
- I recently completed serving two terms on the LWVW Steering Committee

Professional Background

- Retired middle school teacher: Consulting Teacher of Moderate Special Needs, and Consulting Teacher of Reading with a concentration in dyslexia.
- Served on our teacher union as a Building Rep., Executive Board member as Middle School Special Services Rep., served on the Grievance Committee, Negotiations Committee, and Joint Labor and Management.

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

- Supporting the renovation and rebuilding of the schools.
- Implementing Winchester's affordable housing goals to meet the requirements set by the state.
- Responsible residential development in our neighborhoods.

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

- Needed outreach or use of building standards by the town to show responsible oversight of new/renovated homes especially in Precinct 1.

We have two large residential zones RG 6.5 and RBD 10 in Precinct 1. I am concerned that the use of standards established by the town, such as site plan review, need to be enacted more robustly. These standards are meant to ensure the quality of the conversion of our smaller homes to substantially larger ones, and monitor the character of our neighborhoods as the number of single family lots are converted to duplex homes in RG 6.5. When problems with these new builds arise there seems to be a pattern of the neighbors having to step-in and question the town on the actions of developers.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester enlists talented resident volunteers to serve on committees and boards. Many of these volunteers are town meeting members. If Winchester had to hire this expertise the impact to the town would be very costly.

The Communications Study Committee recommended establishing a Town Meeting Member Association. This is an excellent next step to improve the effectiveness of the town government by creating a forum for TMMs, structuring best practices, preparing TMMs ahead of each town meeting, and establishing a system for greater communication between TMMs and their precinct constituents. This type of organization has been well established and successful in neighboring communities. I would like to see this recommendation put into place in Winchester.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025). Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Yes, I support the recommendations of the Communications Study Committee for the town to develop a communications plan and appoint a communications manager. I can think of many reasons why Winchester is in need of implementing the committee's recommendations in particular:

- Improving the town website to a user friendly and cohesive information resource across departments
- Collating information on topics developed across boards and committees to share within town government and with residents

Losing community newspapers and the public turning away from print to online resources for news, has diminished the spread of information on local issues. Therefore, it is even more important for the town to maintain an organized comprehensive resource on town issues not just to share information with residents but for use by town staff and boards and committees to conduct business effectively.

I believe supporting the recommendation for a full-time communications manager is a necessary step for Winchester vs parsing out a part-time communications manager approach as a stipend to staff. It is more than just a website manager role. Maintaining an information resource such as this will require an individual with sophisticated skills in understanding the dynamics of small-town government, technology, social media, and personnel management to sort and catalogue information and maintain topics across groups. There are many towns that currently have resources such as this.

I believe in the end; Winchester will have more engaged and informed residents, ensuring better and more timely discussions and decision making for the town.

John M. Richard *

jackrichard.townmeeting@gmail.com

Community Activities

Host Family, Winchester A Better Chance
Coach of multiple youth baseball and softball teams

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

In my 30 years in town and over 15 years in Town Meeting, I've seen many particular issues go in and out of fashion, each gathering a dedicated group of activists convinced that their cause demanded our undivided attention and immediate action.

I've endured Town Meetings that can consume hours and hours of spirited debate over banning plastic bags or leaf blowers, allowing non-citizens to vote, or regulating the design of residential roof dormers, only to then summarily and strangely dispose of the truly existential and impactful budgets of the police, fire, and school departments in few minutes by a voice vote.

We should always remember we are a representative body; a few supposedly acting on behalf of the many.

I think most of the people of Winchester have a much more practical view of what really matters here than do most of their purported representatives. I think they're more concerned about the schools, public safety, the beauty of the town, and the cost of living here.

It could be fairly summarized as follows: How should we adapt to a time of dynamic and sometimes chaotic change and still preserve the Winchester we know as the best place to start and raise a family, educate our kids, care for our elders, and welcome new citizens who want to contribute?

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

With due respect to the question, I'll confess that none of my life's passions are concerned with any particular political issue facing Winchester.

I think I share that view with the vast majority of my neighbors in Winchester. Our passions are focused on our families, our careers, our health, and finances. This is not to say I'm not concerned or willing to help out, it's just that I'd rather that the Town Meeting tend to the limited local tasks within its proper remit.

I appreciate Margaret Mead's faith "that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world" but I'm sometimes concerned that Town Meeting is "slouching toward" Yeats' world where "the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

As a proponent of small and cost-efficient government, I think Winchester delivers its services very well. We are blessed with high quality public servants in key positions, and an army of accomplished and active citizen volunteers who do much of the heavy lifting in town.

As for what might be improved, I've recently noticed the tribal "us and them" of national politics seems to be seeping into Town Meeting. That would be a shame. The civility and genuine good will I've seen at Town Meeting are essential to our local culture. We need to hold fast to the idea that an argument against our politics is not an attack upon our person.

Tip O'Neil once famously said that "All politics is local", but across the country in the last few years that aphorism has been stood upon its head. Increasingly all politics is becoming national and even international. I hope that trend is reversed back to a more friendly and sane place.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

I would prefer it be a set of recommendations, not a mandate. I oppose any effort to add a permanent town employee to implement or enforce the recommendations.

Gregory Sawicki, MD, MPH
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Community Activities

- Winchester Board of Health, elected 2022
- Winchester resident since 2018 and proud father of 2 young children (ages 6 and 2)
- National Medical Advisory Council, Make-a-Wish Foundation
- Patient Access Steering Committee, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Clinical Research Advisory Board, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

The fundamental role of Winchester Town Meeting is to discuss, debate, and approve funding for various important projects and initiatives throughout our town. Town Meeting Members need to enact proactive, sensible, and responsive policies to continue ensuring that our town is a welcome home for residents from all walks of life. Our schools are in need of support, particularly as our students catch up from several years of COVID-affected education. As capital projects including new school buildings come to fruition, ensuring community input and collaboration will be essential. Overall, the town needs to continue promoting equity and diversity in all aspects of local governance. Close collaboration with the Select Board, Town Manager, and all the town departments, boards, and volunteer committees will be essential to continue to meet the goal toward which we should all strive: being a town aiming towards a bright and healthy future for all who choose to live here by investing in the present.

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

As a member of the Board of Health, I am invested in protecting and improving the public health of our community. As a town, Winchester is filled with residents who have stepped up to face the challenges of the past 3 years in their personal and professional lives. Over the past year, we have entered a new phase of the COVID pandemic, and other public health challenges have re-surfaced (influenza, RSV, and norovirus, to name a few) and I have continued to advocate for communication with residents and continued easy access to for up-to-date vaccinations and testing needs.

The pandemic has also contributed to a mental health crisis in our population. As a pediatrician and parent, I have seen first-hand the impact current societal pressures have had on children and teens. The Board of Health has been working with the Health Department and other town leaders to advocate for expanded mental health services. Over the past year, efforts by the Coalition for a Safer Community have continued to prioritize mental health concerns and resources. In the coming year, the BOH and HD will explore further ways to improve community mental health, including judicious allocation of funding the town has received from the recent state-wide opioid settlement.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Each town committee and board does incredible work in their capacity – but there often are gaps in collaboration and communication across town-wide initiatives. Transparency and collaboration across town bodies including town meeting members, will only strengthen our ability to provide the best possible service to our residents. Additionally, improving efforts town-wide around diversity and equity are needed to ensure our town is a warm, welcoming place for all who choose to live here.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Relationship-building, collaboration, and communication are key qualities in a public servant. I am running for election to Town Meeting to continue serving our community and advocating for appropriate resources for all. As such, clear communication strategies from local government is essential, and I support the efforts to improve communication channels, including investment in communications professionals.

Roger Wilson *

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Community Activities

- 5 terms as Vice President and President of Middle and High School Parent-Faculty Associations
- 23-year member of Town Meeting
- 9 years on Finance Committee
- Current member and former Co-chair, Traffic and Transportation Advisory Committee
- Founding Board Member, Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy
- Served on Personnel Board and Capital Committee
- Member of School Supervisor's Demographic Advisory Committee
- Member of Town Meeting Communications Study Committee
- Advocate and fund raiser for Tri-community Path and advocate for bicycle safety and traffic calming including projects in Winchester and four surrounding towns, and conservation land management and acquisition in Winchester and two other States.

Candidate Statement

Representing the interests of residents of Precinct 1 and Winchester is my job as a Town Meeting member. The work has been a fount of learning, source of friends, and a great source of satisfaction. I would appreciate your vote to continue as your representative.

Winchester's core business is education. Education accounts for over 1/2 of our operating costs, capital costs and personnel. The actual management of our schools is the duty of the School Committee, but Town Meeting appropriates the bulk of education funding as well as the funding for Police, Fire, Public Works, General Government, and smaller departments plus unallocated costs not included in particular budgets.

Most of Winchester's revenue comes from YOU in real estate taxes (indirectly if you are renting), excise taxes, water and sewer fees, transfer station fees, etc. Your say in how much you pay and where your money goes is through periodic override and debt exclusion votes allowing the total tax levy to increase faster than 2.5% and through your representatives in Town Meeting.

Every department, especially Police, Fire, and Public Works, is important and each has particular issues, - a bridge to be rebuilt, a dam to be repaired, a new type or replacement piece of hardware to be acquired, and personnel issues; personnel being the bulk of all departmental costs.

Your capacity and desire to pay increased taxes and fees is obviously limited. We all recognize that a number of our fellow resident households may be more financially constrained than our own. Thus our issues are not about what we need, want, or wish for, but what we are **willing to pay for.**

Town Meeting must deliberate to make sure our budget provides for quality education and funds our other departments within a limited capacity for budget growth. We have \$828 million in obligations including our \$142 million budget, debt and other liabilities. The issues are numerous and often not that easy to understand.

Effective Town Meeting members rely on networks of expertise and information. We rely, first and foremost, on the work of the Finance Committee (FinCom) which recommends the budget to Town Meeting but we prepare for our twice-a-year regular meetings and our special meetings by consulting with fellow members, town staff, and others whom we have grown to trust.

Town Meeting members have to trust but verify the information they receive. We are provided with information with little time to determine how accurate it might be. People "in the know" are critical to the process. I look forward to the formation of a Town Meeting Association and improvements to the town website which were among the key recommendations of the Town Meeting Communications Study Committee on which I served.

"Deliberations" accelerate to \$1 million dollars a minute by the time the budget reaches the floor of Town Meeting. A Town Meeting member with a question, concern, or proposal to actually modify the allocations recommended by FinCom has to be willing to jump in front of an express train. Although I often go along with the consensus, I have demonstrated the will to jump up.

Symbolic or regulatory issues without explicit appropriation tend to enthrall Town Meeting. Such issues are more fun but have less significance than budget issues. They include zoning, and general bylaw issues such leaf blowers. My approach to these issues is to apply the same caution and search for consensus that I apply to issues involving Town financial and physical assets.

My political passion is for the democratic process. Winchester abounds with opportunities for improvement, but it is a pretty well run town, thanks to its staff, active citizens, and tax payers. Our process is often no more pretty than the proverbial sausage production but its results are evident all around us in Winchester.

Productivity improvements are key to continued improvement in Winchester. Productivity gains means we get more done for our dollar but it also provides a source of pride to our employees while raising their value and job mobility (which means we have to recognize that our small town may not be big enough for the ambitions of our employees – it's a two way street). While there are major gains available in streamlining and procedural disciplines, productivity improvements also require investments in training and labor saving capital equipment.

Restraint of expense growth is essential for real problem solving and productivity growth. Most of our costs are salaries. Solving problems by creating new positions and functions without eliminating old positions and functions seems easy but pushes the Town toward a financial cliff where we are required to either lay people off or significantly increase taxes. Instead we need to be willing to shift resources as demands for public services shift. Flexibility and continuous improvement need to be reinforced by our staff and elected leadership and in our labor contracts. And we need to embrace explicitly a reasonable expense growth rate that we all can live with.

Setting a good example in conducting our civic affairs is our highest duty. We want the children of Winchester to grow up to be independent critical thinkers fully capable of self-government. And we want to feel our efforts might provide models for communities with fewer advantages and bigger problems than Winchester. What we do to address our current challenges provide compelling citizenship lessons to future generations.

Christa Anzalone-Russo *
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Community Activities

Current Co-Chair of Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community, Former Chair of Committee on Rules, Former PTO Co- President of Muraco School, Former Parent's Inter-School Council Co-Chair, Trivia Bee Committee for Winchester Foundation for Excellence in Education, Waterfield Project Advocacy Group, Swanton-Washington Development Working Group, Focus on the Future Working Group

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

1. Affordable Housing for social justice reasons, options for the elderly, diversity and inclusion, as well as, to protect Winchester from hostile 40B developers, 2. Secure feasibility study and funds for a new Muraco School. 3. Support Winchester businesses and the Chamber of Commerce in making Winchester a destination for retail and dining. 4. Support the redevelopment of North Main St 5. Preserve the history and culture of our town, particularly the Winchester Cultural District 6. Provide our residents and Town employees with mental health resources, substance abuse prevention and crisis resolution. 7. Improve communication of Town issues with our residents.

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

I am very passionate about affordable housing in Winchester. Our town is a jewel, in many aspects. Its benefits should not only be accessed by those whom can afford a million dollar home. In not changing the status quo, our town continues to lack diversity. I am a mother of a young woman of color whom struggled with bullying, exclusion and threats of violence due to her skin color.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester has outstanding public schools, I would like to see the curriculum updated more often, particularly in the Health and Wellness realm. Trends involving delivery of tobacco/nicotine and cannabis seems to change nearly monthly. Our curriculum needs to be ahead of the curve.

I believe that Winchester is the Gold Standard for New England Town Meeting. Those who engage witness the passion and stewardship of our Town employees, Boards and Elected Officials. However, I believe that the issues facing our Town could be better communicated. Therefore, I would support a full-time Communications Manager.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Ann Sera *

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Community Activities

Very active in helping residents navigate various levels of government particularly as related to the review of development plans.

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

- Maintaining our Town's unique character. This is a broad category of issues including,
 - Ensuring that our zoning bylaws effectively protect against oppressively large and dense development while promoting commercial growth in the center of Town,
 - Prioritizing the maintenance of parks,
 - Protecting existing green spaces and creating new ones,
 - Identifying and implementing innovative solutions to transit difficulties,
- Ensuring that Winchester has places in which native wildlife can thrive,
- Flood preparedness, including,
 - Enacting meaningful methods to reduce runoff,
 - Supporting effective flood protection methods such as temporary barriers rather than implementing proven ineffective approaches,
 - Ensuring that our Fire Department has rescue boats and at least one fast-water certified lifesaver,
- Preserving property value, an objective which necessitates an exceptional educational system.
- Guaranteeing government transparency.

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

I believe that if the Town of Winchester better enforced its own regulations, then our Town could remain a pleasant place to live.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester can rally around a cause with its residents showing exceptional civic engagement, however, I've noticed that in the noble pursuit of lobbying for a cause, misinformation has been given to residents and to Town Meeting more than once. I work doggedly to prevent this, and where necessary, to correct it.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

I am encouraged that the Town has recognized that there is an organizational dysfunction concerning communication; the recognition itself is an achievement. Like any other managerial dysfunction, the best solution is to bring in expertise to solve the specific managerial problem. But, considering that the Town of Winchester operates in a manner similar to other organizations such as businesses, then a full-time, permanent position is probably an incorrect approach. Instead, there are several elite management consultant firms that regularly work with exclusive, influential organizations to make those organizations efficient. The consultant firm is brought into the organization to identify inefficiencies, put new practices into place, make personnel recommendations, and ultimately, create lasting organizational change. We have identified an organizational dysfunction; a consulting expert to address that dysfunction is the correct response.

Jennifer Ryan

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Community Activities

League of Women Voters Steering Committee; active committee member at First Congregational Church of Winchester; Community Preservation Coalition Steering Committee Member; former president of the Arlington Land Trust; former board member at the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network.

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Parks and open space improvements, including accessible open space; downtown business development - including more restaurants; improved public transportation; forward thinking planning that accounts for climate change impacts; continuing to invest in schools.

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

My professional background is in parks/open space and climate resilience, and I would be excited to work on these issues as a town meeting member.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester has an excellent school district and a great bike path. The town could do more to improve parks and open space, incentivize restaurants or cafes, and could improve the walkability and outdoor spaces downtown.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Yes, it is difficult to find out what is happening in town, especially with less local newspapers, and informed town residents is important.

Kathleen (Kate) Duncan

kgduncan@pm.me

Candidate Statement

My husband and I moved to Winchester in 2015. We have a 4 year old daughter who will be starting Kindergarten at Muraco this fall and a 3 year old son, both born in Winchester. We loved getting to know this amazing community and raising our children here. We are members of St. Mary's church; our children attend Creative Corner daycare and we are members of FAN.

This is my first experience with town government. My family has benefited greatly from being part of this community and I want to give back - to participate actively in keeping and enhancing the welcoming community it is today. I also feel strongly that we are better when we work together and respectfully listen to a broad variety of viewpoints. Lastly, as my children approach school age I'd like to be more involved in decisions that impact their future in this town.

Being new to town politics I am coming in without any preconceived notions or agenda. I want what is best for our town. My husband and I are registered independents and have voted for candidates from all parties. I promise to listen to all sides of an issue, do appropriate research and ask questions before making an informed decision about how to vote. I will represent all of my neighbors and will seek to understand their wishes and viewpoints.

I would appreciate your vote and look forward to meeting you all!