

Precinct 5 Town Meeting Candidates

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

One to be elected for 1 year, two on the ballot (J. Roeder and S. Mnayarji)

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

(* indicates incumbent)

Daniel McGurl*

Mariano Goluboff*

Community Activities

Six-year member and former Chair of Select Board

Former Chair of Finance Committee

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Traffic calming initiatives to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and remove incentives to cut through.

Funding the services that Winchester residents expect to receive from Town government.

Encouraging different types of housing, both deeded affordable and market rate, to reduce the number of people who are priced out including seniors who want to downsize and stay in Winchester.

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

Traffic calming initiatives to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and remove incentives to cut through.

It has been proven that speed limits and enforcement alone do not reduce speeds or make streets safer. Streets need to be redesigned with raised crosswalks, curb bumpouts, and bike lanes.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester provides excellent services with a limited budget. We could improve communication to residents about what is going on, and have more precinct meetings to make sure that Town Meeting is more representative.

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?

Yes.

Kathryn J. Hughes

kathrynjhughes@verizon.net

Community Activities

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

- Winchester Financial Committee (Fincom) member
- Winchester town election observer
- DECA Judge and mentor for district and state-wide competitions,
- Boards/committees of the North Shore Technology Council, Massachusetts Software Council, Software and Internet Industry Association, and National Science Foundation.
- Treasurer and Director of homeowners association

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

- Assuring the long-term financial stability of the town
- Preserving the quality, standards, and rankings of our schools
- Supporting employees with the resources they need to maintain high levels of service to the community
- Helping local businesses thrive and grow

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

Achieving sound, long-term financial stability is the most important challenge facing our town as it underpins our ability to maintain the quality of life we enjoy (excellent schools, municipal services, physical plant, recreational resources, and business community).

With a small commercial tax base, Winchester relies primarily on residential taxes and fees to generate revenue. Increases to taxes and fees may force seniors and others unable to absorb ongoing increases to leave. At the same time, we have a long list of major projects ahead with Lynch and Muraco school developments pending and a long list of capital projects. We must make difficult choices in order to balance the community's short and long-term needs, and maximize the value of all town resources at our disposal.

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. Beyond that we owe a debt of gratitude to our town employees- Fire and Police staff, Public Works team, teachers and administrators, and Town Hall staff, who work hard every day to deliver exceptional services our community.

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 a member of Fincom, I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment. Since the proposal would likely come before Fincom for review. I respectfully withhold comment in advance of that discussion.

I-Ching Katie Scott

Community Activities

- Elected member of the Planning Board, 2021-present
- Member of the Accessory Dwelling Unit Working Group. Collaborated with multiple boards and committees to pass Article 4, offering a new housing option for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Parent and volunteer at Ambrose Elementary
- Financial partner of WFEE (The Winchester Foundation for Education Excellence) through agency at Barrett Sotheby's International Realty

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Housing – We need to better serve many who are strained by high costs and the scarcity of diverse housing types. The town needs to enter into compliance with the state's 40B affordable housing statute and MBTA Section 3A for multifamily zoning.

Greater commercial tax base – To increase economic vitality and ease our reliance on a predominantly residential tax base, we need to encourage investment in our commercial centers and evolving opportunity areas.

Sustainable and resilient community – Reduce greenhouse gases and become climate-prepared by updating our infrastructure while encouraging responsible development.

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

As an architectural designer, realtor, and member of the planning board, I wrestle with the many levels of our region's housing strengths and stresses - from helping the young family land their first home or aiding the empty-nester burdened by taxes to right-size, to understanding the methods and costs of construction, to working on our town's obligations to the state's housing statutes.

Winchester needs to nurture the aesthetic strengths of its built environment while fulfilling its moral and legal obligations to allow for more diverse housing needs. With thoughtful action, we can create options while maintaining control from hostile 40Bs and from losing state funding for core projects. Development is necessary and inevitable because of the acute housing and climate crises. We can keep saying "no" to our own detriment, or instead, take active stewardship of growth that expands housing opportunities for residents.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Boards and committees are run by an impressive number of citizen volunteers and it's always humbling and inspiring to witness those neighbors doing the hard work of governance.

We make better decisions for the collective when there is a diversity of representation. The intensity of time and resources asked of volunteers, however, is daunting and often excludes those who have long work days, care-giving responsibilities, disabilities, or other barriers of access to the complexity and culture of our local government.

Virtual meetings increased participation, including mine as a working parent, and we need to continue to reduce obstacles to engagement. Updated website, access to hybrid and recorded meetings, well-written minutes, newsletters, and greater transparency will allow for more informed participation.

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?

Related to the prior answer, better communication would increase both efficiency and range of representation. I support a communications plan and a manager for those purposes.

Having served 2 years on the Planning Board, I am more keenly aware of the difficulty of accurate and timely transfer of information in local government. Dependence on volunteers and social media to dispense, untangle, and interpret complex but critical information creates frustration, inaccuracies, and distrust. Hiring a skilled communications manager would be worth the cost in lost time, money, and work.

Peter Cheimets*
peter@cheimets.com

Community Activities

Town Meeting member
Chair of the Personnel Board
Chair of the Retiree Advisory Committee

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Money is a perennial issue for the Town. Housing is important, and can be addressed. It is time to finish the update to the schools. I would like to see more effort in reducing the Town's carbon foot print. The Winchester 100 is great, but we need to come up with more help for reducing energy use.

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

Energy is by far the one that interests me the most. Keeping control of the budget is important, updating the schools is important, but finding ways to help Winchester's residents help themselves with both lower priced energy, but energy that uses fewer carbon sources is very important.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester does a really good job of maintaining community. It is a wonderful place to live. The housing issue could be improved. Increasing the available housing, especially in ways that would also increase the commercial opportunities of the center of Town would be great.

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, those are good recommendations, and they are not going to come for free. Unfortunately the news coverage in Town is virtually gone, and if we want an informed town populous we are going to need to spend some money.

Heidi Rutstein DiLeo*

Charlene C. Band*

charleneband@comcast.net

Community Activities

- Town Meeting member (5 terms)
- EN KA Society Member
- League of Women Voters Winchester Member
- Election Officer (poll worker) for many years
- Member of the Board of Directors, Wright-Locke Farm Land Trust
- Nine year term on the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy Board of Directors
- Nine year term on the Winchester Historical Commission

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

- **Support** mixed-use development and affordable housing.
- **Mitigate** traffic and pedestrian safety risks.
- **Stimulate** the commercial vitality of town center.
- **Invest** in a high-performing school system.
- **Protect** the historical character and natural beauty of Winchester.

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

Affordable housing. The average sale price in Winchester is \$1.3 million. Winchester has much to offer for people who wish to live here but the cost of housing is prohibitive for both individuals and younger families. It is also expensive to rent an apartment in Winchester. Currently, the average rent price in Winchester for a 2-bedroom apartment can be as high as \$3,350 per month. \$40,200 per year! (Information obtained from real estate listings.)

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

High marks for:

- An excellent school system that provides a quality education.
- Provides numerous opportunities for residents to serve as a volunteer for Town Meeting, Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

- Town employees that work so hard to serve our community.
- Neighbors helping neighbors by Got Lunch program, Jenks volunteers to assist residents with transportation, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, and the En Ka food bank.
- Fun for everyone! Town Day. EN KA Fair. Halloween walk.

Improvements needed:

- Increased promotion and support of local businesses.
- Traffic calming measures to protect walkers, bicyclists, and responsible drivers.
- Provide more affordable housing units.
- Development that is in character of all areas of town, and specifically our Town Center.

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?

Without hesitation, I support both recommendations of the Communications Study Committee.

Statement

I respectfully ask for your vote for an additional term as a Precinct 5 Town Meeting member.
Thank you!

Janice Dolan*

Alan Field*

alanhfield@ymail.com

Community Activities

As a retiree, I have volunteered for many organizations in Winchester, including Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester Interfaith Resettlement Partnership and Winchester Community Garden. I have served on the Climate Action Advisory Committee, and various non profits including 350 MetroNorth and Sustainable Winchester and on the Winchester Democratic Town Committee. I also like to visit organizations in neighboring towns and bring back information I learn there to Winchester.

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

I am very supportive of measures that would improve our community, especially in regards to the environment, climate change issues, our schools and our health

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

As a town meeting member, I should try to represent the views of my "constituents" in precinct 5, but this is hard to fully determine. So, please share your views with me! In the absence of other input, I have to also rely on my own views and judgement. I consider myself both financially conservative and socially progressive. I am often skeptical about town expenditures

and whether some are necessary or too expensive. For example, the proposed renovating of the Sanborn Carriage House seemed way too expensive. I have sometimes been a minority voice at town meeting questioning certain expenditures. I hope to be re-elected and to continue to take the job of town meeting member seriously and diligently.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester supports a high quality school system well. Our town government has tried to advance the availability of affordable housing in Winchester, but in my view, some in the community have unfortunately obstructed this progress. I consider the long term threat of climate change very serious, not so much for me but for coming generations, and I feel we need to take more aggressive actions to play our part in reducing emissions from our homes, businesses and municipal infrastructure, as well as from our travel.

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, the lack of good communication about issues in town has been a problem and I support this solution.

Jason Roeder
jtroeder@gmail.com

Community Activities

Winchester Climate Action Advisory Committee member
Town soccer coach
Winchester Boat Club volunteer
Sheffield/Everett annual block party organizer
Sheffield West green re-investment organizer

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

In my outreach to precinct 5 residents two main issues that surfaced. The first issue is preserving the wonderful quality of life we are fortunate to enjoy – nice open spaces and fields, a nice downtown, great schools, friendly atmosphere. The second issue is the financial sustainability of our town – if residential taxes continue to go up, what is the impact on residents who may be pushed out as a result.

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

To continue to enjoy the high quality of life in the town we need a model of growth that is sustainable. I would look to our recently updated master plan to inform our budget process – both the levels of spending and the outlook for revenue.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

From my vantage point the town is in a virtuous cycle where long-time residents want to remain in town and lots of new residents are eager to join and contribute to the warm, safe, and fun

culture of the town. The challenge we face is sustaining this cycle while being intentional about the diversity we want to maintain or expand.

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 very grateful to all who served on the Town Meeting Communications Study Committee. The report provides a great foundation for understanding problems we have today and opportunities for improvement. I do support an investment in the creation of a written plan that takes this initial work and layers on more details rooted in best practices observed inside and outside Winchester. I do not yet have sufficient understanding to support the addition of a full-time communications manager. This position may well be a good investment and I look forward to learning more about it.

Stefanie Mnayarji
smnayarji@gmail.com

Community Activities

Vice President of the Ambrose PTO
Co-chair of the Parent's Committee at Children's Own School
Winchester Chamber of Commerce Holiday House Tour Host

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Smart spending in our public schools

- There is an increasing demand for SPED (Special Education) and SEL (Social Emotional Learning) with Winchester families. Success in the classroom for a growing population of students lies in having adaptations, accommodations, and instruction modifications as guided by SPED and SEL. These services come at a cost that needs to be supported.
- Supporting our teachers - the most important group of professionals in your family's everyday life. Ensure the teachers have the resources they need to respond to the changing dynamic of the education landscape.

Pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety

- Living on Bacon Street, one of the busiest roads in Winchester, my family sees and hears screeching tires every day. If the voters in Precinct 5 should give me the honor of serving them in Town Meeting, I would prioritize infrastructure improvements such as raised crosswalks and strategic traffic light placement to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

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

SPED and SEL education are in overwhelming demand and currently underfunded.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Winchester has the best neighbors! We are a close knit community that come together to support one another.

Areas for improvement: Increased awareness of learning differences and losing the stigma around mental health services.

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 support both recommendations with a partnership between both the proposed full-time communications professional and Town meeting members. Improved communication coming from an authoritative and reliable resource is necessary in the current climate of asymmetric information in Winchester. A revamped town website that has a robust interface for voters to navigate is essential. In addition, the cost and ease of website overhaul projects have been significantly reduced through web development services targeting municipalities.