

Precinct 4 Town Meeting Candidates

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

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

(* indicates incumbent)

Stephen A. Boksanski *

steve@sboks.com

Community Activities

- Town Meeting, Precinct 4 2021-2023
- Winchester Youth Baseball & Softball Board of Directors 2010-2021

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

- Capital Planning
- Education
- Maintaining/improving a friendly and inclusive community

What are your positions on these important issues?

- With many ongoing capital needs we need to make sure we are looking at these in a holistic view and planning accordingly.
- Our public schools are a top reason why so many families choose to live here, we need to ensure our system and personnel are equipped to maintain a high level of excellence.
- We have a vibrant community with lots of opportunities to come together like town day, the Enka fair, sports, school events and town meeting. I hope to set an example of how to find common ground and maintain civility in discussing town matters.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

And does

- While I support the intent of ensuring open space, I need more information about this program before I could definitively support or oppose. From what I read, the latest state match is 21%. Some of the questions I have are: is there ample land available that would qualify as open space; how much is the surcharge and how does this impact affordability.

Bhavana Lupadhyaya

Mary Kay McIntyre *

jmkmcintyre@gmail.com

Community Activities

Winchester A Better Chance (host family coordinator, admissions team, rides committee)

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

1. Housing shortage / affordable housing
2. Quality schools / Reasonable taxation
3. Town beautification/maintenance / walkable access to shopping and services

What are your positions on these important issues?

1. Many older residents and young families would like to remain in Winchester, yet housing is in short supply. We should consider policy alternatives to expand our town's housing, such as expanding zoning for multi-unit dwellings. I also hope we can come together as a town to meet the MA requirements for affordable housing units.
2. Our town has amazing schools. In order to retain this high level, we need to support our educators and infrastructure, requiring a significant portion of residential taxes. I support recent efforts to decrease town costs/taxes via more affordable health and retirement benefits.
3. Sidewalks and adjoining vegetation must be maintained to keep our town safe and walkable. I support efforts to develop small business districts that are walkable throughout our town, especially at nearby commuter rail stations.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

Green spaces greatly add to the quality of life in our town. Benefits include play space for young families, park benches for older citizens, and pleasing landscaping. Maintenance costs of Winchester's green spaces can be secured with adoption of the CPA.

Kimberly Paolino

Bettina Parks *

Sally Quinn *

sally.quinn@comcast.net

Community Activities

Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy
Wright-Locke Land Trust

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

1. Affordable housing and open space

2. Balancing paying for our important services with keeping Winchester the wonderful place to live that it is.
3. Communication between the town, the officeholders and the residents
4. Community Preservation Act

What are your positions on these important issues?

We need to keep up our efforts at creating affordable housing. It is the right thing to do and we need to return to Safe Harbor (and someday get to the state threshold) so we can manage our own development.

Our town has an impressive school system and other services. We need to continue to support these services. The magic comes in supporting these without driving people out of town. The Communications committee has done a good job of describing our communication shortcomings and giving us options of how to remedy them. Let's keep on this. We are one town and need to communicate with each other.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

We have tried to pass the Community Preservation Act for years. Because we haven't, we have left state money on the table since the inception of the CPA in 2000. Open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation are important parts of a vibrant and livable town.

I am honored to have been a Town Meeting Member since the late 1990s and feel it a unique and effective means of governing.

Heidi Rutstein DiLeo

hrrutst@gmail.com

Community Activities

- Small business owner in downtown Winchester
- 1 son who graduated from WHS in 2020
- Town Meeting Member in Precinct 5 since 2015
- Winchester High School Override Steering Committee
- Resident of Winchester for over 35 years

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

- Affordable Housing for seniors and housing to meet state requirements for funding
- Address how to bring more commercial revenue into Winchester
- Continue to rebuild infrastructure, including schools & historical structures
- Better open communication with residents about what is happening in town
- Focus on "shopping local" to support our small businesses

What are your positions on these important issues?

- I would like to see seniors stay in the community they have contributed to and lived in. Rising housing costs, taxes & living expenses make it difficult. I would like to see more focus on developing areas for affordable senior housing. Affordable senior housing will help meet our state quotas, not put a strain on our school system, and allow seniors to be lifelong residents in a community they love
- Explore commercial revenue streams from business in the area of the Winchester/Woburn line. We can have smart development that has little impact on traffic, allow for job opportunities and bring much needed revenue into Winchester. Winchester has NO comprehensive revenue plan
- Work with MSBA and stake-holders on continuing to rebuild our schools. Winchester should be a community with opportunities for lifelong learning.
- We need many channels to be able to reach ALL residents about what is going on in our town. Social media isn't enough. We should have a town center kiosk, as well as monthly mailings with information impacting Winchester.
- Formulate a continuing campaign to encourage consumers to shop local - a publishing showing the benefits of shopping small should be created. (not just through the Chamber of Commerce) We also need to come up with more avenues for residents to get into downtown - We had a shuttle many years ago. It's time to bring this valuable service back to Winchester.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

I absolutely support the Community Preservation Act: a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing and develop recreational facilities.

Kathryn Valone *

Candace Van Aken *
cwanaken@aol.com

Community Activities: Past and present mentioned in Candidate Profile

Candidate Statement

I am running for re-election to the Town Meeting because I feel I can represent the needs and interest of Precinct 4. I currently teach studio art at a neighboring community's high school. My children graduated from the Winchester Public Schools and I have long seen the value and importance of maintaining a quality education system. As a past two term member of the town's Finance Committee, I also understand the need to operate within a budget and setting fiscal priorities.

I have called Winchester my home for the past 46 years. With this perspective I see how our visible architectural heritage adds to the beauty and desirability of our town. As past member and chair of the Winchester Historical Commission, I have worked to document our historical assets and, currently, am a member of the appointed study committee for the proposed Symms Corner Local Historic District.

Another important issue facing Winchester is the need for affordable housing for people from a diverse economic range. The town is fortunate, at this time, to have skillful, well informed professional people working on solutions to meet this need. As a Town Meeting Member, I would like to stay plugged in and to be a part of the discussion and planning.

These are some of the top issues I feel are important to Winchester. The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a tool that would help facilitate solutions to most of my priorities mentioned here. These issues are about today and the future of Winchester so I would likely support the CPA both in Town Meeting and at the ballot. However, it is important to hear the full debate and then to take a definitive position considering all of the information presented.

I am grateful for the past support of the Precinct 4 voters and ask for your vote in the March 26 Town election. Thank you.